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THURSDAY, MAY 3RD, 2012



LEFT:
To find out
why former
England
football
international,
Ray Wilkins,
was coach-
ing a group
of youngsters in
Barry this
week, please
turn to
page 5.

4 years jail for Barry woman who set fire to her boyfriend's flat

A CHAMPION
Thai boxer has
been jailed for four
years for starting a
blaze at her
boyfriend's flat.

Caroline Thomas
(31), a woman with no
previous convictions, of

Lewis Street, Barry, had
been found guilty at a
previous hearing at
Cardiff Crown Court of
arson, being reckless as
to whether life would be
endangered.

Prosecutor Andrew
Morse said that Thomas
had gone to a flat in The

Report by AJ SICLUNA

Parade, Barry, when
Stefan Bjevoic was out
and started a fire when
she lit a halogen heater
which was on a bed.

Thomas denied the
allegation and said that
what occurred was an
accident. Her counsel,
David Pinnell, said she
came from a very
respectable background
with a very supportive
family behind her.

"This case is a
tragedy. The offence was
out of character and was
due to the amount of
alcohol and other sub-
stances she took.

"She does look to the
future and in no way
wallows in self pity,

turning what is a tragedy
into something useful.
The fire was started very
much on the spur of the
moment."

Judge Philip Richards
told her: "That fire could
have caused great dam-
age. You show great
insight into what you
did."

He said the victim
had lost all his belong-
ings. The guilty verdict,
said the judge, was
based on very clear evi-
dence.

"Why you did what
you did remains very
unclear. It was in a fit
of angry jealousy affected
by the amount of drink
you had taken that night.

"Had you not had that
drink, your thought
processes would have

been more sensitive.

"I have to sentence
you for a very serious
crime, but there is more
mitigation in your case
than in most cases of this
sort.

"You are an intelli-
gent young woman with
family responsibilities,
and I am making the
sentence as short as pos-
sible, but it cannot be a
trivial term, it has to be a
significant term, to
reflect the serious nature
of your behaviour."

He said she had
expressed a wish to help
others, and it was plain-
ly, he said, an unusual
case.

The payment of com-
pensation, the judge
added, was not a possi-
bility.

Tommy's arrival a surprise for his sports-mad mum!



by TIM CHAPMAN

FIVE generations of a
Barry family were
featured in a photo-
graph at one of the
town's best known
businesses, following
a special and totally
unexpected arrival –
that of baby Tommy
Cordy!

June Williams,
Tommy's great grand-
mother told The GEM:
"Tommy's arrival in
January was a total sur-
prise to the family

"My daughter, Janine,
found her daughter
Emma in the bathroom
crying and saying her
stomach was 'agony'.

"She rushed her into
the University Hospital
of Wales where they
realised she was preg-
nant! Tommy was born
at 6.20am on January 2."

The amazing thing is
that Emma, who attends
Newport University, and
was home for the
Christmas-New Year
break, had played foot-
ball and rugby until a
couple of weeks before
the birth!

However, no harm
was done and mum
Emma and dad Rhys
were "delighted" with
the arrival of Tommy.

The family have been
customers at Paul
Gentile Jewellers, King
Square, for 34 years and
the business was keen to
mark the joyful news of
Tommy with a 'five gen-
erations' photograph of
Tommy, his mother, his
grandmother, his great-
grandmother and his
great-great grandmother!

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)

ABOVE: left to right, Joan Thompson
(Paul Gentile area manager), grandmother
Janine Cordy, Peggy Prosser great-great
grandmother with Tommy Cordy on her
lap, mum Emma Cordy behind Peggy,
June Williams great-grandmother, and (to
the right) Maria Gentile.



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He went out of his way to help others

MAY I through your letters page, to pay tribute to John Hobbs, who was the Barry branch chairman of the Royal British Legion. (His death was reported in last week's GEM).

I met John, through the good work that he was doing through the Royal British Legion. I remember him as a man who would always go out of his way to help others.

One particular matter that springs to mind was when the new Barry Memorial Hall manager erected signs calling it the 'The Barry Memo'. This not only at the time upset members of the public, but outraged

members of the Legion, who joined me and other members of the Barry Town Council in getting these signs changed.

John was committed to the British Legion and often visited schools in the area, including Jenner Park Primary to tell the children about the good work of the Legion and about those who gave their lives for our country.

John also worked hard for Remembrance Day, and was heavily involved in organising this event.

He was a gentle giant, a real people's man and a local hero. John Hobbs did so much for people and it is really sad to hear that he has now gone.

I am sure he will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. **Richard Bertin, Barry.**

Open message to all councillors...

DEAR Councillors, as I walk the Vale regularly, I see no evidence of your zero tolerance at work.

Everywhere I walk, I see litter in hedgerows, dog fouling just left or dog mess bagged up and thrown into bushes.

You cannot educate people who do not care about the environment;

Titanic not just about health and safety

AS a retired professional marine/mechanical engineer, I feel your correspondent, Mr Delaney, is out of his depth on the subject of the Titanic.

In the early 20th century, there were proper codes of construction in place, but slightly less effective than ours today. It was through these early mishaps that science progressed...is there any other way?

Even then, there was the Factories Act relating to factory safety, which included health, albeit somewhat "flexible".

One of the problems with early steel vessels was the quality of the steel and the methods of use. Steel impurities at

that time could lead to low fracture resistance, manifesting itself in grain boundary fracture at low temperature.

But also, crack propagation along rivet holes, which at that time were punched, not drilled, set up stresses before constructing was completed.

It was not until January 1943 (cold weather) that serious investigation into the mechanics of ductile-brittle behaviour at freezing temperatures was instigated, after the T2 tanker 'Schenectady' broke in half, while being fitted out in a ship yard in Oregon, USA.

So I feel 'health and safety', as Mr Delaney would portray it, is somewhat inaccurate. **James Tuttle, C.Eng.**

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SPITFIRES OR HURRICANES?

The Battle of Britain argument rages on...

THE GEM of April 19 carried a report from the Barry Men's Forum entitled 'Build-up to the Battle of Britain'.

This evoked strong family memories for me, as both of my parents worked at Rolls-Royce Derby, which produced the Merlin engine that successfully powered all versions of the "Spit" – and also the Mosquito Bomber, later in the Second World War, and other famous aircraft.

My late father was a skilled aero-engineer at Rolls Royce and my late mother was secretary/PA to Lord Hives, managing director, whilst the engine was being developed.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS SWAP SHOP

FOLLOWING the Swap Shop held in Llantwit Major, last Saturday in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Week, I'd like to thank everyone who came along to take part.

It was a successful afternoon and we've raised £600 for Cystic Fibrosis. A big thanks to all the

local businesses who helped support the event and the wonderful ladies who donated delicious homemade cakes.

Also thanks to The Boverton Castle Sunday night quiz team, who donated £50 after reading about our event in The GEM.

Sarah Morton, Llantwit Major.

Last push for the Eisteddfod target!

DURING the last year, the Dinas Powys Eisteddfod committee have been busy raising funds for the National Eisteddfod of Wales, to be held at Llandow in the first week of August.

With a target of £12,000, activities have been many and varied, including a talk by Rhodri Morgan, a Salsa evening held in the Parish Hall, a family treasure hunt and barbecue, historic walk around the village, a quiz, and an evening with the Ecumenical Seven.

Although we are gradually reaching our target, there are a few remaining events being organ-

ised which, hopefully, will enable us to finally reach the target.

These are: An evening with the historian, Dr John Davies, to be held in The Lee Hall, Dinas Powys on Friday, May 25 at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 to include light refreshment, available from Julia Beasley (02920 512185) or Elinor Elias Jones (02920 512405).

A golf day will be held at Dinas Powys Golf Club on May 20 from 10am-7pm. Teams of four (no handicap greater than 20), cost £130. All day buffet and prizes. Contact Mr John Huw Williams (02920 513620).

Come and join us, there's something for everyone. **Jayne Lewis, Dinas Powys.**

Both of them survived air-raids on the factory in Nightingale Road, Derby (it is still there).

A famous Welsh scientist, Dr RV Jones (a distant relative of my late Welsh mother, maiden name: Jones), discovered that the Luftwaffe were using radio beams (code name 'Knickebein') to more accurately guide their bomber stream.

The first target – and Luftwaffe target No 1 – was, Dr Jones discovered, R-R Derby, where the cross beams coalesced over the factory.

If the Luftwaffe had succeeded in destroying it, they could have won the Battle of Britain without possibly firing a shot: no engines, no replacements to fit in to air frames – end of story. Eventually, the beams were bent off course.

A few statistics: the Vickers Armstrong Spitfire, powered by the R-R Merlin engine II or III, was first delivered to 19 Squadron at Duxford near Cambridge in 1938 (now an excellent museum).

The engine was liquid-cooled and the aircraft armed with eight .330 machine guns. Max speed was 367mph.

Mosquito relied on surprise and speed

Later versions increased the speed to 416mph for the Vickers Armstrong Supermarine Spitfire, which had two 20mm cannon and two .50 machine guns. Plus it could carry 1,000lbs of bombs or rocket projectiles.

The famous wooden Mosquito, which bombed the Amiens Gestapo HQ, had no armament but could carry a bomb load of 2,000lbs and relied on surprise and its speed, powered by two R-R Merlin XXT engines of 1,250hp each (max speed 380mph).

Finally, within the RAF, debate still rages on the relative merits of the Hurricane or the iconic Spitfire; generally the Spitfire was more manoeuvrable, but the Hurricane was of sturdier construction, could better survive enemy-afflicted damage and was a superior gun platform.

This debate still causes heated arguments among veterans and others alike.

Christopher Short, Barry, (Ex-RAF Regiment).

Making sense of school holidays

IWOULD like to inform any readers who were affected by the difference in the school Easter holidays between local education authorities, that this is set to continue until 2016.

Next year, February half terms, as well as Easter, will not be the same across authorities in Wales.

I teach six miles away in Bridgend, but live in the Vale, where my child attends school.

Obviously, if these dates are set in stone, I will be taking my child out of school during term time – in order to spend my half term with my family.

I have never done this before, but feel I have no choice.

I welcome any comments from the people who set these dates, as to whether there will be any opportunity to reset them and, therefore, stop this ludicrous and preventable situation. **Name and address supplied**

Clearing a path to the Heritage Coast...

THE Heritage Coast footpath is being improved as part of the All Wales Coastal Path initiative. New steps are being installed at Cwm Mawr to make it easier for people to enjoy the walks and scenic views

Pictures by
HEATHER MARCH



HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MAY 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	04.26	8.9	17.01	9.1
04 Fri	05.23	9.3	17.54	9.5
05 Sat	06.15	9.9	18.43	10.0
06 Sun	07.04	10.2	19.31	10.3
07 Mon	07.54	10.4	20.16	10.4
08 Tues	08.41	10.3	21.05	10.2
09 Wed	09.28	10.0	21.51	9.9
10 Thur	10.16	9.5	22.38	9.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

MARINA, DEVELOPMENT ON DOCKS 'MOLE' AND A WATERFRONT BUSINESS PARK...

Campaigning group's vision for the town over the next decade

A marina, a Waterfront business park and redevelopment of a stretch land projecting into the docks, are three of Pride in Barry's key aims over the next decade.

The ambitious vision for the town is described in the organisation's strategy document for 2012 which has just been published.

Pride in Barry's chairman, Mr Paul Haley, told The GEM that its proposals envisioned an integrated town centre, Waterfront and Island that fulfilled the area's potential.

"A marina linking Barry town, the Waterfront and the Island would fill in a missing void and link everything together in a more direct way," explained Mr Haley.

"We have an expanse

of water at the centre of the community and it makes no sense that there are no activities there

"We want to see a marina and youth organisations using the water."

Pride in Barry believes a marina and development of the area of land jutting into the dock, known as 'The Mole' with cafes, restaurants and sailing facilities, will help to create jobs, encourage tourism and draw inward investment.

Mr Haley pointed out: "A sandy beach within walking distance of a Barry marina would make it more attractive than Cardiff Bay."

He said a Barry marina would be a 'saltwater' development, in contrast to Cardiff Bay's 'freshwater' facilities, and would appeal to a particular niche of the sailing market.

"These things would

Report by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE: Chairman of Pride in Barry, Paul Haley.

make the area investable and we'd like to see a business park in front of the Dock Office end of the Waterfront, near the train station.

"The idea is again, that local jobs would be created, it would reduce travel to Cardiff and keep income in the town."

One of Mr Haley's concerns, like many

people in the town, is the overloaded road network which he believes requires significant improvements – another strategy document aim.

"Barry is suffering with the top road to Culverhouse Cross and the lower road through Dinas Powys and congestion will be exacerbated with the additional houses that are going to be built locally."

"We need the lower road link into the Cardiff road network to be upgraded with a Dinas Powys bypass long overdue."

In 2004, Pride in Barry launched a strategy document and the members can point to a number of successes – such as helping the town achieve 'strategic regeneration status' in 2010 worth £9.8, campaigning for the removal of the Waterfront 'tank farm', and lobbying the Vale Council for an event strategy in which

the Waterfront Festival plays a key role.

Pride in Barry has also worked hard to promote the town's image through Ambassador Awards and a Blue Plaque scheme.

Recently, the principal of Cardiff and Vale College, Mr Mike James, revealed his wish to establish a campus on the Waterfront, an indication of the increasing attractions of the town.

Mr Haley's hope must be that the decision makers in the Welsh Government also see the rich potential that lies in Wales' largest town less than seven miles from the capital.

● Negotiations have been ongoing over the last few months involving Associated British Ports and local sailing and youth organisations.

Mr Haley told The GEM he was confident dinghy sailing would start in the dock within the next 12 months.

Group's 'marathon' walk – in loving memory of Noah...

by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE: Annette Dobbs.

was able to go home to live with his parents Hywel and Colleen Tyler.

Noah then experienced a life-threatening episode and deterioration, and the family decided he would be best cared for at the

A BARRY optometrist is taking part in a 'walking marathon' – in memory of her cousin's baby son Noah, who died in his mother's arms just before Christmas.

Annette Dobbs, who has her practice on Tynwydd Road, told The GEM "About 20 of us will be taking part. People from the Vale and Cardiff are involved, but family and friends will be coming from as far afield as Oxford and Southampton."

"The walking marathon is 26.2 miles along the Pembrokeshire coastal path, and will take place on May 19. We aim to start at 6am on Newgale Beach and finish by 6pm at The Sloop Inn, Porthgain."

"We will be raising money for Ty Hafan, in memory of my cousin's baby, Noah, who was looked after at the family hospice for the last two months of his short life."

Noah was born in February 2011 with a very serious brain injury. Although the first few weeks of his life were tough and go, he was a real fighter and

Sully-based hospice. Annette said: "Ty Hafan looked after Noah and the whole family. They were wonderful, providing medical and pastoral care."

In October 2011, the staff threw an early first birthday party for Noah. He died a few weeks later, just before Christmas, in his mother's arms. Noah will never be forgotten by his family and his 'finger art' adorns the hospice walls.

Annette is keen to help other Ty Hafan families in Noah's memory. People can pick up a sponsorship form from her business at 40 Tynwydd Road, or go to her just giving page at: www.virginmoneygiving.com/MarathonWalk.

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Dolphin event to boost Daniel's 'Cwtch Fund'

A live music event is to take place at The Dolphin, Barry Island to raise funds for two-year-old Daniel Downton, who has been undergoing treatment for cancer.

The event organiser, Rob Salter, told The GEM: "Daniel is currently enduring another three week long chemotherapy session.

"Because of the effect the treatment will have on his immune system, he will have to stay in an isolation unit for its duration.

"Despite the tough times, Daniel has coped really well with his exhaustive treatment and is still full of smiles and fun. We chose The Dolphin as a venue



ABOVE: Despite tough times, brave Daniel keeps on smiling.

because Daniel loves the beach and we can get a real summer beach party atmosphere going here."

The event, 'Sounds of Summer' includes a

party on June 2 that will feature two bands - Bootleg and Acoustically Sound.

Proceeds from the day will go to the Daniel Downton Cwtch Fund - Once the bands have finished, the night will continue with music from The Salty Dog Experience disco.

Tickets are £5 each and are available from Demon Barber, Park Crescent; Vic Hopkins Butcher, High Street; Marco's Café, Barry Island; Big Dave's Café, Barry Island and from Barry Fire Station, Port Road. If you don't manage to get a ticket, entry on the door is £7 subject to maximum numbers not being exceeded.

The GEM will publish more details nearer the time.

Cadets get to grips with an RAF tradition

RECENTLY, 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps held their annual 'Dining In' night at HMS Cambria.

The evening was the opportunity to formally entertain guests of the squadron, with more than 80 officers, instructors, cadets and former Cadets attending.

The cadets and squadron staff were joined by guests from Officer Commanding No1 Welsh Wing, Wing Commander K Padney, Mr Doug Provis (a founder Cadet of 372 Squadron in 1941), Flight Lieutenant John Greenow and Squadron Leader Dave Clandon, former Commanding Officers of 372 Squadron.

The 'Mr Vice' on the night was Cadet Jake Paterson (15), the youngest and newest cadet on the squadron. Jake's responsibility on the night was to assist the Commanding Officer with the smooth running of the evening, and to entertain the guests after dinner as well as calling the Royal toasts.

After dinner, Wing Commander Padney gave an entertaining speech to the Cadets and guests about his close association with 372 Squadron over the years, and also to present the annual NCO of the Year trophy to

Corporal Sam Lazenbury for his hard work and dedication during the last year.

The evening was also a dining out of squadron officer Pilot Officer Rachel Davey who has recently moved to another squadron. She will be missed by cadets and staff at 372.

The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed the night, learning about the traditions upheld within the Royal Air Force.

Cadet Geraint Andrews said: "At first, I was really nervous about the evening and all the traditions. It was great fun and I can't wait until next year's dining in night".

The cadets are now looking forward to an action packed and challenging training programme, including flying, gliding, shooting, sport, hill walking, campcraft, Duke of Edinburgh awards and leadership training in what promises to be another busy and exciting year ahead.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can contact 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org for information.

Keeping a close eye on Chloe's Alice!



TALENTED pupils of Changing Scene Theatre Company are seen keeping a close eye on Alice (Chloe Davies).

The company's new production *Alice*, filled with drama, music and dance, takes to the stage on July 26-29 at Barry Arts Centre, Winston Road, Barry.

Tickets go on sale on May 26 and can be bought at 'The Mad Hatters Tea Party', Barry Arts Centre, Winston Road, Colcot. Telephone 02920 633217 for more details.

Police in vow to keep the Island trouble-free

POLICE have warned that they will be keeping a close eye on potential troublemakers at Barry Island when the summer season gets under way.

A spokeswoman said that the local Neighbourhood Policing Team will be based at Barry Island Tourist Information Centre during daytime hours.

"Officers and their colleagues in Safer Vale will be looking to prevent any potential anti-social behaviour problems and keep visitors safe by enforcing Barry Island's strict 'no alcohol' rule."



Left to right: PC Nick Williams, tourist information assistant Zoe Larton-Bevan, and PCSO Wayne Chant at Barry Island Tourist Information Centre, where local officers will be based throughout the spring and summer.

Local policing Inspector Chris Owen commented: "Barry Island is a very popular resort and we will be working with our partners and alongside local

businesses to ensure a safe and enjoyable time is had by all.

"Barry Island is a place for all the family and we will keep it that way."

Funtime on High street



Local dance youngsters thrill audience



ABOVE: Young Barry dancers have talent!

PUPILS from the Barry Dance Company based at New Jerusalem Church Hall in Tynenydd Road, thrilled a packed audience at the Wales Millennium Centre during a pre-show presentation on the centre's Glanfa Stage.

In fact, the centre was so impressed with the young dancers and singers who

attend the Kids Got Talent Academy also held in the hall, that they are performing there again in July and August.

The youngsters, aged between two-and-a-half and 13, attend classes every Wednesday in Barry and are trained by Sandra Gage, who has opened her school in the area after a 15-year break.

THERE were a number of activities taking place at Barry High Street over Easter, including a recipe competition, crafts and activities at Sanctuary and prizes at the Little Big Shoes Shop. It was also Butterflies' third birthday, and Easter competitions for the children took place throughout the day.

Day out in Porthcawl

MEMBERS of Barry/Vale Community Aid thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon out, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Barry on Wednesday, April 18.

Members travelled by coach from Barry along the coast to Porthcawl. Although inclement weather prevented a stroll on the seafront, there was time to stop

and visit All Saints' Church in Porthcawl before going on to the Atlantic Hotel, for a most appetising afternoon tea of sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and pots of tea!

Speaking on behalf of Barry Vale Community Aid, Peter Walker thanked Barry Rotary Club for such a lovely afternoon out, which was enjoyed by all.

Barry Vale Community Aid meets at Gwenog Court, on Severn Avenue every Thursday between 6p.m. and 9p.m.

It is open to senior citizens and new members are always welcome.

The Rotary Club of Barry meet weekly at the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays, 6pm for 6.30pm.

Anyone interested should contact membership officer Peter Battle on 01446-710204.

Open day at Amelia Trust

JANE HUTT, AM for the Vale, joined the Amelia Trust Farm open day to welcome visitors and partners from local organisations and businesses who were learning more about the important work of the Trust.

Among those who attended were representatives from Asda and Tesco, the Parc Prison, Legal and General, The Prince's Trust and local farmers.

She congratulated the farm on its work, and especially welcomed the European-funded project supported by the Vale Volunteer Bureau, to meet the needs of young people supported by the Amelia Trust Farm.

'Brains Trust' puzzler for Penarth Computer Club

IS it possible to have two files on your computer with exactly the same name?

This was the first question put at the recent meeting of the Penarth computer club.

The first consideration is: 'why would I want two files with the same name?' Put that aside for the moment and assume that you have unintentionally tried to save a file with the same name as one that already exists.

Can you do it? The computer produces a message to say that a file with that name already exists and asks if you wish to replace it.

But it does so only if a file with the same name exists in the same folder, otherwise the new file is saved in the usual way.

So it appears that you can have more than one file with the same name on your computer, provided they are in different folders or on different drives.

The full answer lies in the difference between our world and the one a computer inhabits. We see a file called, say, Fred.

The computer sees a file named Fred.xxx, where xxx is called the file extension and varies according to the programme used to create it ('doc' for Word documents or 'jpg' for a picture and so on).

This is not obvious if the user has opted to have common file extensions hidden.

The ability to have the same name in different folders is because the computer considers the file name to include the full path to the file's location as

part of its name, starting with the drive and each level of folder, to the one that contains the file, and then what we see as the file name. Hence the computer cannot have duplicated (full) file names when we happily have several that we see as the same.

If you copy and paste a file to the same folder the system will indicate that the new file is a copy (or copy2; or copy3 of the original).

The meeting then noted the sophistication of computer diagnostics for modern cars that not only identify a problem, but also indicate the date and time it occurred.

Some discussion centred on how to set tab and indent controls on word documents. These are set on a ruler above the top of the document. They can be set for any individual document or incorporated into a template that can be saved and re-used.

It was agreed that if a programme started to malfunction repeatedly, it would be as well to remove it and re-install it from scratch (remember to back up any data files beforehand).

No-one could answer a problem where text at one size was reduced before being copied from one document, but, when pasted into another one, arrived at its original size.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Dr Brooks will give an update on family tree research.

For more information call 02920 708439.

HOWARD DESMOND

Footballing legend trains Wembley-bound Romilly youngsters

AS The GEM reported in March, Romilly Primary School pupils are Wembley-bound later this month, and one of the perks of their big day out in London was to have a training session with one of the legends of the game.

On Tuesday, May 1, former England international Ray Wilkins, who played for Manchester United and Chelsea, visited the team to give them some one on one coaching.

For the youngsters it was a thrilling experience to learn from someone who has appeared in many of the world's great stadiums.

Ray spent time taking the pupils through some training drills and



Former Chelsea star Ray Wilkins puts pupils through their paces.

explained what it takes to become a professional footballer. He was also keen to find out how the team had played in recent matches.

The boys will take part in a match before the Championship play-off final at Wembley Stadium on May 19.

Romilly Primary School took part in the 'Kids Cup' Southern England and Wales

nPower Finals' in Reading on March 12 with the tantalising prospect of a Wembley appearance their aim.

They beat Crystal Palace youngsters in the semi-final and Portsmouth pupils in the final.

The boys had won earlier tournaments for the right to represent their local league club Cardiff City in the nPower sponsored competitions.

If Cardiff City get past West Ham in the Championship semi-finals, the youngsters could play at Wembley on the same day as their City heroes. The boys will play a team from Leicester.

Police seek wanted man

THE public is being asked for help to trace 21-year-old Lewis Scott Jones, whose last known address was in the Barry area.

Jones was initially released from prison on licence but he has since breached the licence conditions and is now required to return, police say. He is described as white, 6'0" tall and of slim build, with short, dark brown hair and brown eyes.

Anybody with information as to his whereabouts is asked to contact police in Barry on 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

TOMMY IS A GEM!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

As you can see from the picture on the front page, Tommy was on his best behaviour, photographed on the lap of great-great grandmother, Peggy Prosser.

Paul Gentile area manager, Joan Thompson, told The GEM: "We wanted to mark such an important family event and present Tommy with a £50 voucher.

"The family have been great customers over the years, always coming in on Saturdays, and have become friends – even inviting us to family events.

"Making the presentation to Tommy was a great opportunity to get five generations of the family together in one place for a special photograph."

Barry's local Olympic torchbearers revealed

AMONG the inspirational torchbearers who will be carrying the Olympic flame through the Vale on Saturday May 26 are three people who are being rewarded for their tireless efforts to raise money for charity.

Lara Cowpe (24), from Dinas Powys – is carrying the flame in Barry/Barry Island.

When she was just seven years old, Lara Cowpe was diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma and received two years of chemotherapy treatment.

At 16, she was well enough to be fully discharged and it was soon afterwards that she first heard about the work of the Teenager Cancer Trust.

Determined to help others, Lara decided there and then that she wanted to raise money and awareness.

Through various exploits over the years, she has so far raised more than £30,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust's unit at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

Lara unfortunately had another setback in July 2010, as she explains: "I found a lump in my neck and following the removal of a lymph node I was told that I had cancer again.

"For a month, I and my family were preparing for me to go through cancer treatment all over again and I could not believe that I was going to be treated on the unit I had raised so much money for.

"However, further tests showed that it was actually the Epstein-Barr virus that causes glandular fever. Although I was really unwell and still now feel the effects of the virus, I have never been so relieved to have a virus!

"I also realised that if I needed the cancer unit, it would have been there."

James French (20), from Barry, carrying the flame in Barry/Barry Island.

Growing up as a young swimmer in Barry, James French dreamt of swimming in the Olympics and emulating his hero and fellow Barrian, David Davies.

He'll now get to do the next best thing to competing in London 2012 – carrying the Olympic flame through his home town.

James was selected for the energy that he has put into raising thousands of pounds for charity through swimming.

Kay Richmond (63), from Barry, carrying the flame in Barry/Barry Island.

Kay is a social worker for Latch, the Welsh children's cancer charity, supporting families both in hospital and at home

following a child's diagnosis of cancer and leukemia.

Kay has worked for Latch for 17 years, and in 2002 she began her own fundraising to help raise money for the charity that is so close to her heart.

One marathon and seven half marathons later, Kay has raised more than £5,000 for Latch.

Kay's two grandchildren will be among those cheering her on as she carries the torch through her hometown, and she said: "I am really thrilled

and was so proud to be nominated. My colleagues, family and friends will be lining the route to give me support as we all feel it will be a very special day and one to remember."

Don't forget that you will need to be quick out of the blocks to follow the London 2012 Olympic flame through the Vale on May 26, as the torch relay begins in Dinas Powys at 7am and climaxes on Port Road East in Barry at 8:50am.

You can find out more at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/olympics.

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Pupils learn of past horrors on Auschwitz visit



The students walked under the infamous Arbeit Macht Frei (Work Sets You Free) sign over the gates.



Bethan Hopkins and Isaac Mayne arrive at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

BACK in February, two Barry sixth formers, Bethan Hopkins and Isaac Mayne, along with Barry Comprehensive School teacher Miss Jenkins, visited the former Nazi extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland.

The visit was part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project. Preceding the trip, Bethan and Isaac listened to the touching testimony of Holocaust survivor, Leslie Kleinman, at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff.

The survivor told the audience of how he was sent to Auschwitz at the age of 15, with his seven siblings and mother, and how he was the only member of his

family not sent to the gas chambers.

Mr Kleinman then went on to tell the room of how he was liberated and saved by a Jewish American sergeant whom he longs to meet again.

Finally, the testimony was concluded with the words "I don't hate anybody", with Kleinman adding that hate will only cause similar events to happen again.

Two weeks after hearing Mr Kleinman give his testimony, Bethan and Isaac flew to the Polish town of Oswiecim (renamed Auschwitz by the Nazis in 1939).

The group was greeted by the man that founded the project, Rabbi Barry Marcus, in the only surviving synagogue in Oswiecim.

After the Rabbi's introduction, the students were taken through the gates of Auschwitz One, where Bethan and Isaac were shown exhibits of vari-

ous recovered items from the camps: suitcases, family photos, razors, toothbrushes, shoe polish, hair and artificial limbs, all of which reminded them of the painful truth that those who were sent to Auschwitz believed that they were to be met with comfortable accommodation.

The next area of the camp that Bethan and Isaac were to visit was the gas chamber. Every student silently entered one at a time and came out the other side not quite knowing how to feel.

"After everybody had left, I decided to stay in on my own. I just wanted to experience just a part of what they must have felt, and absorb it as an individual," said Bethan.

When the tour of Auschwitz One had finished, the students moved to the second camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the three camps in Auschwitz.

The students walked through the snow-covered camp until they reached the large multi-lingual memorial.

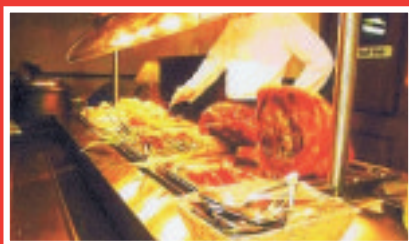
Now cold and dark, the sixth formers stood between the ruins of gas chambers, and listened to Rabbi Marcus speak and sing passionately in memory of those who had died where they were stood.

The comment that Bethan and Marcus remember most vividly was - "If we were to have a minute of silence for each innocent man, woman and child that died in this camp alone - something we are constantly doing to remember individuals that die tragically within western culture - we would have to remain silent for three whole years."

The students then lit candles and placed them upon the railway track at Auschwitz-Birkenau as a final mark of respect to those that died, and to mark the end of their trip.

But from here the experience was not over - Bethan and Isaac now plan to share what they have learnt with the school through a forthcoming assembly.

Bethan has planned to create a Holocaust memorial to display in our school - the memorial will be a large sheet layered with handprints of every pupil that wishes to take part, and will serve us as a reminder of our own individuality, our respect to those that died, and our willingness to never let it happen again. AC



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Council looking to land sales to fund schools in the Vale

THE Vale Council's flagship project to create the Penarth Learning Community (PLC) needs land sales totalling £4 million to go through - otherwise the cash will have to be borrowed.

A recent issue of The GEM included an article outlining the council's strategy for school building, detailing how an allocated £74 million will be spent over the next eight years.

The biggest project, costing £47.2 million, is the Penarth Learning Community (PLC) bringing St Cyres School, and the three special schools of Erw'r Delyn, Ashgrove and Ysgol Maes Dyfan, together on one campus.

Another £20.9 million is to be spent over the eight years, with £12 million going on a refurbishment of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

The remainder of that £20.9 million will be spent on enhancing various primary schools in Barry and Llantwit Major.

Finally, a sum of £6.6 million has been set aside for repairs and improvements to other schools around the Vale.

by PHILIP IRWIN

This information was revealed in a report to the Vale Council cabinet on April 18.

However, the same report also revealed that the Vale Council faces the prospect of having to borrow £4 million if there are delays in raising cash from the sale of surplus land.

This surplus land is available (or will be available) as a result of schools moving from old sites to new.

The report lists the sites, and the biggest is at Dinas Powys, which is available now that St Cyres School has moved onto one site at Penarth.

However, during the election period, Plaid Cymru councillors in Dinas Powys have been raising concerns over possible traffic problems if too much of the site is sold for housing.

The council also expects to raise cash by selling the existing Ysgol Maes Dyfan site - once the school has moved to its new home at the PLC.

Finally, the last land sale that is earmarked to contribute to the £4 million is in Cowbridge, where the former sixth form

building (on Aberthin Road) is surplus to requirements now that the town's new comprehensive school is open.

A much bigger (and more valuable) piece of Cowbridge school land is the lower school site, which has been bought (subject to planning permission) by Taylor Wimpey for a residential development.

This money, however, is not available to the Vale Council's school building programme, because it is tied to a local educational trust.

The Vale Council also expects to receive £1.5 million from other local authorities who place pupils in the three special schools that will be in the PLC.

The report notes that Cardiff City Council is expected to make the biggest contribution, as it sends more pupils to the schools than any other.

Another source of funding for the school building programme is the cash due under the section 106 agreement with the developers of the Penarth Heights housing project.

A total of £783,000 is expected from this source, probably paid in stages over the eight years.

All Saints Primary pupils learn about staying safe

THE year-5 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School recently received a visit from PC Mark Thompson, who gave important lessons on staying safe.

The theme of his talk was the danger of alcohol abuse and the children learnt about the number of units in a variety of drinks, and what problems occur when recommended

limits are exceeded.

There was a chance for the children to give their views and ask questions, then they took part in a series of activities to raise awareness of potential dangers and health risks.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and their teacher, Miss Saunders, thanked PC Thompson for another valuable addition to the pupils' Personal and Social Education.



TEACHER'S MARATHON EFFORT!

ANDREW Leftley, the acting head of PE, and health and fitness co-ordinator at St Richard Gwyn School, rose to the huge challenge of the London Marathon and completed the race in a time of three hours, 54 minutes and 27 seconds.

Andrew was running to raise funds for an all-weather pitch at St Richard Gwyn to give Penarth, Barry and Vale pupils the opportunity to enhance their sporting activities, and therefore have a positive impact on their health.

Andrew said it was a huge privilege to run the marathon in London in

Olympic year, and to raise funds for a much-needed facility at the school where he teaches.

He spoke of the mental challenge of the marathon, both in the training and the actual race, and felt it was a huge test of his resolve, as he particularly wanted to complete the race in under four hours.

The pupil who raises the highest sponsorship will win an iPod Touch.

If anyone wishes to support St Richard Gwyn in the quest to raise £10,000 towards the all-weather pitch, join the school for a car boot sale on Saturday, May 12 from 9am-1pm. Pitch tickets are £5 - to pre-book contact 01446 729250 or turn up on the day.

Cadoxton are bowled over

Cadoxton v Romilly A
Sploft Phoenix (friendly)

THE weather was dry but bitterly cold for the opening game of the season, when Cadoxton Bowling Club visited Sploft for a friendly fixture.

It resulted in a narrow defeat. However, the tea after the game brought the blood flowing again, with an enjoyable curry!

L Adams, R Doble, W Vaughan, H Craven, 19-14; P Ellis, L Cundliffe, D Kuhnell, 18-14; T Bishop, D Evans, J Davies, G Brown, 9-16; D Tuck, D Collard, M Mathews, D Brook, 10-14. Final score, 56-58.

Cadoxton A v

THE A side hosted their first game in the SV League, and it resulted in a win on all rinks against an experienced Romilly team.

S Clements, D Fanning, R Cole, G Garland, 15-19 L Jones, W James, K Clements, B Gough.

G Powell, K Tanner, L Little, G Davies, 7-18 P Phillips, D Cameron, D Bannister, W Hewitt. L Tanner, J Stewart, M Curtis, R Harding, 7-28 J Coles, C Davies, B Cheal, R Hewitson.

B Knight, S Clarke, J Sugden, A Turner, 13-25 A Jones, P Denley, P Hoad, R Wyatt.

Final score, 42-90.

DK

The East Aberthaw residents demand action over traffic

RESIDENTS in East Aberthaw are asking for action to be taken to improve the safety of the road through the village.

Iain McCarthy, of the East Aberthaw Residents' Association, told The GEM that the association had been

approached by local mothers, and they had now taken the matter up with both their local MP and local councillor.

He told The GEM that access to the village playground or around the village has become too hazardous even for parents.

Sarah Coleman, mother of a new baby and a

toddler, said: "The traffic through Aberthaw can be horrendous. Every time we walk out of our gate we take our lives in our hands, especially with a push chair and a toddler."

"The problem is that the road is so narrow here. We've had three

speed related deaths here in recent years, so walking with little ones along this road would be madness."

Mr McCarthy says that elderly residents are also becoming house-bound because it is too dangerous to walk on the road.

Mrs Brenda Frost pointed out: "Me and my husband have to depend on our grown-up children to come and take us out. We wouldn't dare try to walk to the bus stop, although its only 100 yards away."

The residents say that Rhosee has increased fourfold in size in the last 30 years, leading to a huge increase in the volume of traffic through Aberthaw.

Mr McCarthy said that East Aberthaw residents have been asking the Vale Council to improve pedestrian safety in the village, but as yet no satisfactory solution has been proposed.

Vale MP Alun Cairns commented: "I support the residents of East

Aberthaw as they work with the council to ensure that traffic is slowed down as it drives through the village.

"Pedestrian safety is a priority and I welcome the council's feasibility study. I will be urging them to act upon the findings as soon as possible."

He added: "I was pleased that Gordon Kemp recognised the issue, and has been working with local residents for some time."

"The feasibility study should throw up several options, which could include traffic calming, a reduced speed limit or other alternatives."

"We also need to work together to gain funding from the Safer Routes in Communities Scheme, to ensure that the recommendations can be delivered."

A Vale Council spokeswoman said: "Unfortunately there is insufficient carriageway width to construct a safe footway at this location and this has been explained to the residents on a number of occasions over recent years."

"The council has,



ABOVE: East Aberthaw residents want action taken to reduce the speed of traffic through the village.

however, undertaken investigations in response to the concerns raised by the residents at East Aberthaw in respect of vehicle speeds through the village.

"Council members and officers have met residents and the following actions have been progressed: Traffic speed/volume survey undertaken; personal injury collision records investigated; adopted highway limits determined; road geometry checked; gateway feature designed; summary of existing traffic calming features identified; possible future traffic calming features identified."

She continued: "Recently, the following Traffic Regulation Orders have been confirmed and speed restrictions will be introduced shortly:

"This will be a 40 mph speed restriction on the approach from the north and from the south."

"In addition, improved edge of carriageway markings have been laid and mobile driver feedback signs have been located at East Aberthaw for three months."

"Also, a police speed enforcement exercise has been undertaken."

"The speed data obtained from the mobile driver feedback signs will now be assessed and the success of the aforementioned features will be reviewed over the next couple of months."

"A decision will then be taken as to whether or not other physical traffic calming features such as road humps or cushions are required."

Accompanist Rhiannon is now musical director

BRIDGEND Male Choir has appointed Rhiannon Williams-Hale as their new musical director.

She takes over from the late John Jenkins who had been with the choir for almost 10 years when he passed away this year.

Rhiannon is well-known to the choir having been an accompanist with them from 2003 to 2008.

Born and raised in Barry where she attended local Welsh language schools, Rhiannon lives in Treorchy, where she works as a free-lance accompanist and as a voice and piano tutor and adjudicator. She is also a percussionist with the Park and Dare Band.

She has never forgotten her roots in Barry, and regularly brings the

Ynysybwl Ladies Choir (for whom she is musical director) to Barry to perform, as well as accompanying at other events in the town. She is well-known in Barry as a first-class accompanist and teacher.

Rhiannon has established the first-ever Treorchy Eisteddfod for ages six years to adult, with solo competitions in voice, piano, brass and instrumental.

This is to be held at Treorchy Primary School on June 30. Entry forms are available from rhiannon-williams-hale@yahoo.co.uk or by telephoning 07791 375519. The closing date for entries is May 30.

Rhiannon Williams-Hale's first concert as musical director of Bridgend Male Choir is at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff on May 3.

THE ST PAUL'S SPRING FAYRE

THERE will be bargains for all the family at the annual Spring fayre at St Paul's Church Hall, St Paul's Avenue, Barry on Saturday, May 5, opening at 2pm.

Stalls include books, DVDs and CDs, gifts and cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and bottle

stall.

New this year is a free children's fancy dress competition with prizes for the best fancy dress.

Admission is 50p, children are free and there is a big raffle with a first prize of £50 and many other prizes, including drinks and grocery hampers.

Home-made refreshments will be on sale and doors open at 2pm.

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LOCAL BAND SUPPORTS HAITI CHOLERA APPEAL

THE West End Club held a fundraising evening on Saturday April 21, where Godfrey Knight, who is dedicated to raising funds to support the people of Haiti, joined the (Ramones tribute act) Shamones on stage to entertain all those who attended.

Vale AM Jane Hutt came to wish them well and to pledge her continued support for the Haiti Appeal.

All the money raised will go towards purchasing vital water filtration systems for Haitian families who have been devastated by the earthquakes over recent years.

Clean water is essential to prevent cholera and other diseases affecting the children of Haiti.



Jane Hutt AM, Andy Johnson of the Shamones and Godfrey Knight at the West End Club.

Club to explore birth of flight

A FILM about man's earliest attempts to build controllable flying machines will be shown at the meeting of Penarth Aviation Society on Friday May 4.

Only 120 years ago the German Otto Lilienthal, a design engineer and pioneer of flying who has been called 'the first successful aviator in the history of mankind', strapped himself to wide-ribbed wings which he could flap like a bird, and made his first jump from a 45foot-high hill.

He managed several hundred gliding flights using his variously-designed wings before he crashed and was

killed in 1896. The film, which covers the birth and early development of aviation, shows Lilienthal making the flying experiments that thrilled his contemporaries. It includes the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, with their glider which they called 'the kite'.

By 1903, the brothers had invented and flown their first powered aircraft. And just 23 years after Otto first jumped from the hill, a man flew across the Atlantic.

Penarth Aviation Society will be meeting for the film in the Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm on May 4. Visitors are welcome.

Information from David Ephraim, on 01446 72132.

TENOVUS ADVICE

A TENOVUS charity advisor will be available for advice for anyone looking after a loved one with cancer in need of support, at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday, May 10 (10am-12 noon).

Further information on 01446 732385.

BUBBINS BACK IN BARRY

BARRY comedian Mike Bubbins returns to his home town on June 1 for a gig at Barry Island Sports and Social Club.

In the last 12 months, he has supported Welsh funny man Rhod Gilbert on his sold-out national tour; written and performed his debut show at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, been a regular guest comedian on BBC Radio Wales and regularly headlines at clubs and theatres across the UK.

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Charities benefit from MP's run

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns was among the field of more than 30,000 in the London Marathon, which he completed in 4 hours and 3 minutes – to raise funds for two local charities based in the Vale – Atal y Fro (formerly known as Women's Aid) and MIND in the Vale.

He was making his debut along with six other MPs on the 26.2 mile course.

"It was an unforgettable experience and I enjoyed every minute.

"It was a fantastic day and great to see so many people out on the streets showing their support for the thousands of people who were running to

raise money for so many different and important causes," he said.

Mr Cairns still welcomes sponsorship for his efforts to support Atal y Fro and MIND in the Vale.

To respond to his appeal, please log onto www.virginmoneygiving.com/aluncairnsmg.

Donations can also be taken to, and sponsorship forms completed, at the constituency office, 29 High Street, Barry.



ABOVE: Vale MP Alun Cairns with his medal

CCTV helps in Vale arrests

CCTV operators at the Vale of Glamorgan Council contacted police on 18 occasions during the week ending April 29.

One person was arrested on Holton Road, Barry, on April 24 for breaching a restraining order and another person was arrested on suspicion of burglary at Park Crescent on April 25.

A person was also arrested on suspicion of theft on Holton Road, Barry, on April 27, while a fourth person was arrested on Barry Island on April 29 on suspicion of multiple vehicle offences.

On Saturday, a missing person was found on Holton Road in Barry, thanks to CCTV operators, and another person received an ASBO on Broad Street, Barry, on April 23.

All crimes are alleged at the time of incident.

PACT meetings

CADOC PACT, 6pm, May 8 at Palmerston Community and Learning Centre.

ILLTYD PACT, 7pm on May 16 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry.

DYFAN and GIBBONSDOWN joint PACT, 2.30pm-4.30pm on May 12 at Winston Road, Barry. Look out for TREV, The Reassurance and Engagement Vehicle.

RHOOSE police surgery, May 9 at St Peter's Church at 11.2am.

WENVOE coffee and

chat, May 10, at the Beech Tree Inn, Wenvoe at 11am.

L L A N T W I T MAJOR PACT, May 15 at Llantwit Leisure Centre at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT, May 14 in St Mary's Church Hall at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, May 17 in Penarth Leisure Centre at 7pm.

L L A N D O U G H PACT, May 28 in Llandough War Memorial Hall at 7pm.

SPECIAL MONEY SKILLS SESSION

RECENTLY, bank employees joined forces with the ValePlus charity, which provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for adults with a learning disability, to deliver a Barclays money skills session.

It was part of a national drive to help one million people acquire financial skills.

Young people tackled topics, such as opening a 'bank and spending' account, using an ATM, budgeting, saving and spending. They also received practical guidance on how to keep their money safe.



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JOSEF'S SPECIAL TALENT WOWS THE SONG JUDGES



Josef's got talent!

ASHGROVE Special School, Penarth, was the latest chosen to take part in a national competition to find the next Susan Boyle – and 12-year-old Josef Morley was the winner who goes through to the finals of 'Britain's Got Special Talent'!

Josef, who sang the song 'Still Alive' from the game Portal, stunned the judges with his talent

and he was over the moon to become the winner.

Alison Wilde, a teacher at the school, said: "His parents will be so happy".

The south Wales charity, 'Follow Your Dreams', has taken its road show nationwide to find a star among youngsters with learning disabilities, and the winner will get the opportunity to record at Rockfield Studios, Monmouth, where Queen recorded *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Alf unearths 'Allotment' poem

SORTING through my cuttings recently, I came across the following little poem, 'The Allotment' which I acquired in the 1950s.

I was serving as a special constable, at Harbour Road police station (close to the Ship Hotel, Barry) which was the station that I was attached to.

Now and then, a small booklet on police matters came my way and in one of them was 'The Allotment.' I thought that it was well written and was permitted to copy it for myself.

When I have been invited to talk at a meeting, I have often included it and always had a good response.

Having been a gardener myself, I can appreciate the sentiments expressed in this little poem.

THE ALLOTMENT
We early in the Bible learned

About the curse that Adam earned
Because of agitators
But in these latter days somehow
The curse is multiplied, and now
By sweat of body, brain and brow
We've got to earn our 'taters'.

My garden measures,

so they say
About twelve perches,
mostly clay
And as I labour there
each day
As quiet as a Quaker,
I turn my head around
and see
How much more digging
there may be
And that allotment
seems to me
More like a blessed
acre!
Since I began to till
this ground
I've used more language,
deep, profound
Than any collier

underground.
"You know how colliers swear".
I fear I've lost all
hope of heaven
But still, one consolation
given
If to the other place
I'm driven
There'll be no garden
there!
Hope's ray is o'er my
path way past,
I've finished digging it
at last,
And soon I'll happier be.
The spade and fork away
I'll fling

And in my armchair, like
a king
I'll rest my aching back
and sing
This new doxology.

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow,
I've finished for a month
or so;
Planted the spuds and
done my best
Now let him worry with
the rest.

**ALFRED MILLS,
BARRY**
(The writer, aged 100, is a long standing GEM contributor).

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MP welcomes 'royal award'

RENISHAW, the global engineering technologies company which bought the former Bosch site, has received a Queen's Award for Enterprise 2012, for its ultra-high accuracy measurement system.

It was the company's

15th Queen's Award since its formation in 1973, and the news was welcomed by Vale MP, Alun Cairns, who said: "I'm delighted that Renishaw have achieved success, and once again been recognised for their innovation, receiving the accolade of the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2012."

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Vale voters head for the local polls

TODAY, Thursday, May 3, voters in the Vale of Glamorgan are heading for the polls to decide which local candidates should represent them – at a time when council budgets are arguably under greater pressure than at any time for 40 years.

It means that whichever majority political grouping results – whether a single party or a coalition of parties – difficult decisions on funding and services will have to be made.

So what have been the main two areas of concern raised by local voters on the doorstep and in

the street?

Gordon Kemp, the Leader of the Vale Council said environmental concerns and the LDP had been topics high on the Vale election agenda.

"Generally, it is small environmental issues which have been raised on the doorstep, but it is these which are important to the community.

"Residents have indicated that they are happy with the co-mingled recycling and are happy with our already announced intention to introduce strong enforcement measures in respect of dog fouling and littering."

Coun Kemp said the LDP had been raised, pointing out that the process of delivering it

started during the days of the Labour-Plaid coalition in 2007.

He explained: "There has been a six-week consultation on the draft plan, and the views of those who responded will be considered before the final plan is ready for consultation in 12 months' time."

"Contrary to the claims made by the Labour Party, it cannot be scrapped."

Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale's Labour group, which claims it can scrap the Local Development Plan, explained: "The main area of concern is the LDP, which is flawed, unsustainable and very contentious."

"If Labour is elected

TIM CHAPMAN REPORTS

to run the council, we will scrap it and go back to the drawing board and start afresh.

"Other issues have also been experienced. The appalling state of the roads, with pot-holes everywhere is probably the most important issue, but this is just one of a number of matters that have been raised."

Plaid Cymru said road problems and a regeneration report had been uppermost for people in Barry.

Nic Hodges, the local Plaid leader, said: "One issue has been the continuing delay in the Tories reintroducing parking wardens into the Vale."

The resulting traffic chaos is bad for residents, tourists and business. The excuse of using Cardiff's experiences as a pilot is a false one and was used to try to cover their delays.

"The failure of the Tories to redevelop Barry Town centre has been both shocking and a scandal."

Coun Hodges said that

Group AGM

THE annual general meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, May 14, at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

an excellent consultants' report had been neglected by the Conservatives which would have rejuvenated Holton Road.

"It took Plaid Cymru to bring this report to light and force the Tory cabinet to discuss it openly, after sitting on it for over two years."

INDEPENDENTS

This year, there are 144 people standing in 23 Vale wards, with more independent candidates than ever before – a total of 14.

Gwyn John, of Llantwit Major First Independents, said residents were dissatisfied with the way the Conservative-run council had treated Llantwit.

"They have failed to fund a new comprehen-

sive school in Llantwit Major, and after building schools in Cowbridge and Penarth, there is no money left to build in Llantwit.

"People are furious at the lack of funding for the town, the third largest in the Vale after Barry and Penarth, and angry at the closure of the cash office."

A number of independent candidates are standing in Barry, supported by the FocusBARRY group.

Independent candidate, **Dennis Harkus**, said: "The two main topics are too many new houses with no infrastructure to support them and the culture of the Vale Council."

"Many Barry and

Rhoose people feel the council policy to guide thousands of houses to Barry and neighbouring communities without regard to the highway infrastructure is totally unacceptable.

"People's perception is of a lack of openness and transparency in Vale Council business and a total failure, and unwillingness, to involve people in the decision-making process. It's our money and our community."

Candidates have also reported matters of concern such as local government transparency in decision making, 'value for money' in spending, disillusionment with politicians in general and fly-tipping.



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Welsh Government to act over illegal fly grazing in Vale

THE Welsh Government has been urged to make sure that laws are in place to tackle the problem of 'fly grazing' – the dumping of horses on private land.

At a recent Question Time in the Senedd, the local regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, called on the First Minister to tackle 'fly grazing' and ensure that residents across the Vale do not see a repeat of the traumatic scenes witnessed throughout the winter months.

He said: "I am happy to hear that the First Minister recognises what I have been saying for some time, which is that a co-ordinated response is required to deal with the owners of these horses being left to graze illegally on private land.

"The animal welfare issues that have arisen out of this debacle have been extremely distressing for residents, as have the public safety con-

cerns, with horses escaping on to public highways and even the runway at Cardiff Airport.

"Naturally, it will also be necessary to consider whether existing legislation has the teeth to deal effectively with the owners of these horses, who have been flagrantly flouting the law for far too long.

"Animal welfare laws must be sufficiently

robust to tackle the issue and it is vital that we look closely at the current system of 'abandonment notices' as well as legislation concerning the fit and proper ownership of animals.

In his reply, the First Minister said: "In my area, there has been fly grazing in cemeteries. Horses have got into one cemetery not far from where I live and are still

there, to the great distress of people who have loved ones buried there.

"It is well known who the owners of these horses are. We will work very closely with all local authorities to ensure that proper enforcement takes place.

"If there is a need to strengthen the law in this area, we will of course consider that as well."

Leekes defies recession!

LEEKES has announced that the last quarter has seen its best sales performance for more than three years, with sales up by over 10 per cent compared with the previous year.

This news coincided with the recent ONS announcement that the economy has slipped back into recession after GDP for the first quarter of 2012 fell by 0.2 per cent.

Peter Martin, Leeke's Store Operations

Director, said he believed that retail sales were a far stronger indication of economic strength than the headline GDP figures.

"Retail sales are always the first to suffer as the economy runs into difficulty and people tighten their purse strings. However, in a similar way, we are the first to see the beginning of sustained recovery as the economy strengthens and people start to spend.

"While last year continued to be challenging, sales in key home improvement lines, such

as kitchens and bathrooms, remained healthy.

"Since December 2011, we have seen a terrific increase in sales across all areas, which we believe is led by a pent-up demand for goods that the public have been putting off purchasing for the last few years.

"Overall, the company is more than £3 million up in sales, compared to the same period last year, and we are seeing an acceleration in sales which we believe will continue throughout the rest of this year."

Local company's charity golf day

THE Vale and Bridgend branch of the NFU Mutual Insurance is organising a charity golf day in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, at the Grove Golf Club near Porthcawl, on Friday, May 18.

Teams of four, at £175 per team, are invited to enter, although individual entries at £45 are also accepted.

The format for the day will be the best three stableford scores per hole to count, with excellent prizes for the best team and also the best individual score in

both men's and ladies' sections.

In addition, there are high quality prizes for the winners of the longest drive and for being nearest the pin on the par-3 holes.

A two-course meal will also be available to all contestants, together with the opportunity of bidding in the silent auction for one of the many other star prizes.

Anyone interested in playing or making a donation to the Alzheimer's Society is asked to contact Mrs Pam Harris at the NFU Mutual Insurance on 01656 653111; or Tony McCarthy on 07813 902149. TMC



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Out and About with The GEM

THE AVENGERS SET BENCHMARK FOR THE BLOCKBUSTER SEASON

SINCE the second wave of superhero hysteria on the big screen, Marvel Comics have proven to be the market leaders.

While Batman's second outing, *The Dark Knight*, is the biggest comic book movie of all time, the success of *Iron*

Man, *Hulk*, *Thor* and *Captain America* on the big screen has far outweighed DC Comics' recent efforts with *Superman* and *Green Lantern*.

Avengers Assemble sees the above-mentioned heroes (played by Robert Downey Jr, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans respectively) along with Hawkeye

(Jeremy Renner) and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) team up under the auspices of Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) when earth is threatened by Thor's evil brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston).

Will the Avengers be able to stop him, or will Loki and his army have the final say?

You could half argue that the individual films that showcase the members of the Avengers have been glorious, high-budget trailers for the group's first big screen team up.

Though the films have entertained and been hugely successful, they have contained plenty of nods and winks along the way; while *Iron Man 2* seemed to spend more time on the foundations of the group than on the story of that film.

So with expectations from fanboys and the public alike set to extremely high, does *Avengers Assemble* (pre-

fer the title *The Avengers*? Me too) manage to match or even exceed them? The good news is that it most definitely does.

The individual parts add up to a satisfying whole that certainly sets the benchmark, not just for the likes of *Batman* and *Spiderman*, but for summer blockbusters as a whole.

The main worry was how the film was going to handle such a rich mix of characters, all with an avid fanbase, and all needing to be served by the machinations of the story.

Thankfully, under the auspices of Joss Whedon (also in the director's chair) and Zak Penn (who has experience with both *The Incredible Hulk* and *X-Men 2*) the characters come across vividly and richly defined – all having a part to play and none feeling marginalised by the needs of the story. Whedon and Penn's

story plays out as a typical comic book movie – evil attempting to take over the world with the aid of an army – but on this simplistic foundation intelligence and spectacle are laid in equal measure. The film balances incredibly well the notions of identity, morals of the supposed good guys and the importance of heroes in this cynical age with explosions, fight sequences and the expected action beats.

Whedon's skill as a director has always leaned more towards actors than delivering bang for your buck, but given such a large toy set to play with, he comes up with the goods, the film kicks off with a well constructed set-piece involving an escape and never really lets its foot off the pedal.

The middle act sags a touch only due to the needs of the story, all that action requiring some breathing space for story.

But Whedon marshals all the elements into a credible whole, and hopefully the success of this film will make him more than just the celebrated hero of the genre community – he can cer-

tainly achieve even more than is on show here.

The cast are all more than well versed in their characters so play very much as you would expect: Robert Downey Jr is witty and charismatic, Chris Evans noble as the man out of time, Chris Hemsworth stoic as the man out of place, while newcomer Mark Ruffalo nails the human element of the Hulk, and the likes of Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner and Samuel L. Jackson are all impressive in built-up roles.

Tom Hiddleston really hits the spot as the evil Loki, vying with Ruffalo as the finest turn on show. Hiddleston delivers a boo-hiss villain with added clout and backstory, and even if his alien army feels a touch faceless, the actor is still coldly chilling and a viable threat to our heroes.

While the future for the group will no doubt be built up by further individual outings for the heroes, hopefully the next installment of their team-up won't be too far away as *Avengers Assemble* is a fine first outing for this dream team and a thrilling adventure ride in its own

right.

VERDICT: The fruits of Marvel Comics' films have come to fruition in the best possible way, as *Avengers Assemble* is a truly superb blockbuster.

With rich characters and an engaging storyline dynamic, Joss Whedon manages a fine balancing act that works extremely well and sets the benchmark for the summer – *Spiderman* and *Batman*, it's over to you! **Highly recommended.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Iron Man* (2008), *Thor* (2011), *Captain America* (2011)

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D720.

● **£2,000:** 186723.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £9,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 6 2 6 6 9 8 .
225745, 614791, 663103, 830554, 153201, 361445, 801911, 349979, 304645, 671135, 299754, 372941, 615862, 390254, 763056, 266821, 494616, 848414.

● **£5:** 7 3 5 9 2 5 .
713671, 222535, 862007, 473418, 907294, 216244, 396064, 192643, 834365, 786566, 405370, 706296, 522408, 611926.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

CHARITY FASHION SHOW

THERE will be a fashion show, by M&Co, in aid of Cancer Research UK on Thursday, May 17 in the Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Admission £5. There will also be a raffle.

Boots on for the Big Welsh Walk

ON May 5 and 6, keen walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts will be gathering along the Welsh coastline to take part in a weekend of walking events to mark Ramblers Cymru's Big Welsh Coastal Walk.

This mass participation event is to celebrate the launch of the Wales Coast Path – 870 miles of walking, enjoyment and access to the seaside for everyone to enjoy.

There will be events taking place along almost every stretch of the Welsh shore from short seaside ambles to exhilarating cliff top hikes, as well as the Welsh Government's official launch events in Cardiff, Aberystwyth and Flint.

Angela Charlton,

director of Ramblers Cymru, said: "The launch of this Coast Path is a milestone for access to our countryside and coast and to celebrate it we're calling for everyone who can to appreciate the magnificent opportunities that this path will make available.

Ramblers' members across Wales will be involving their local communities in a variety of walks to suit everyone.

visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/wales to find details of coastal walks near you on the Big Welsh Walk map – don't forget to register your attendance with the walk leader. For more information on the official launch events please visit: www.walescoastpath.org.uk.

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Out and About with The GEM

Spring fayre

THERE is a free children's fancy dress competition, with prizes for the best fancy dress and bargains for all the family at the annual spring fayre at St Paul's Church Hall, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, this Saturday (May 5), opening at 2pm.

Stalls include books, DVDs and

CDs, gifts and cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and bottle stall and everything will be sold at St Paul's famous bargain prices.

Admission is 50p, children are free and there will be a big raffle with a first prize of £50 and many other prizes including drinks and grocery hampers.

Refreshments will be on sale and doors open at 2pm in St Paul's Church Hall.

Valeways walks

On Sunday, May 6, at 10.30am, a Nordic walking 'taster' session starts from the main car park at Porthkerry Park, Barry, led by Howell Isaac (Age Cymru).

Tabletop sale

THERE will be a tabletop sale at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on Saturday May 12 from 10am-12.30am. Good quality goods available, entry is free.

Care and repair service

PENSIONERS living in their own home and finding tasks difficult, such as repairs and improvements, can have free advice from Care and Repair, which covers the Vale, on Tuesday, May 8, at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, 10am-12 noon.

Call 01446 732385.

Walking festival

THE third annual Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival will take place on May 11-13 with three eight-mile walks, a 'Vale Ale Trail', Nordic walking tasters and the Welsh Walking Group.

For further information, go to the website www.valeways.org.uk or telephone the Valeways office, Monday to Wednesday on 01446 730707.

Kyle's Goal charity dinner A CHARITY gala dinner and dance will be held on Friday, May 11, at the Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff (7pm).

The compere will be the BBC presenter Sian Lloyd, with dancing to Nigel Hart's Bogart Band and a disco.

Proceeds are in aid of Kyle's Goal, supporting The Charity Headway (the brain injury association).

For tickets for the event, telephone Michael Bishop on 02920 617788.

Mini Olympics at the May Day fayre

THIS year's May Day fayre at the Cogan Recreation Centre, near Penarth Leisure Centre, looks set to be the best yet, with the youth Mini Olympics taking place.

A trained team of workers and volunteers will be helping youngsters raise money for Breast Cancer Care through sport.

All 11-18 year olds in Penarth and the Vale are invited along on the day, pay just £1 and join in this exciting event.

The fayre itself will have games, stalls,

Penarth parade

AS part of activities planned for Carnival Day during Penarth Festival Week, a classic car and walking fancy dress parade will again have 'The Carnival' at its theme.

Classic cars and motorcycles, and a walking band, will accompany the entrants on Saturday, July 14.

Contact Penarth Town Council for further details.

Rogation festival at Amelia Trust

A ROGATION festival is to be held at the Amelia Trust Farm on Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13.

It is a fundraising event for the farm. On the Saturday, the festival will be open from 11am-5pm and on Sunday, 12 noon-4pm.

The weekend will include craft stalls, bouncy castle, competitions on the Saturday, a dog show on the Sunday, live music, food and refreshments.

Rogation Sunday is the fifth Sunday after Easter, and the custom for this day is for a procession to walk the boundaries, blessing the crops and the animals within.

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ANTIQUES FAIR
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10.00am - 5.00pm
at
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All proceeds to Nantgarw Chinaworks Trust
Entrance Fee £1.50
Refreshments Available
Charity No. 1121606

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Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D719.

● £9,000: No winner
● £2,000: Swansea, 853079.

● £10: 782576, 325002, 388009, 276565, 373229, 652376, 744947, 254227, 758673, 723172, 394103, 292818, 362513, 756484, 284471, 969948, 677100, 840287, 681600, 538347.

● £5: 352668, 509239, 251597, 409275, 174810, 830029, 818893, 853270, 834438, 142531, 623693, 442498, 432206, 571708.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.
For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.09.

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No correspondence will be entered into. No cash alternatives available. Prizes are for entry to the event only, not travel or other costs.

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Which of these is a classic fairy tale...

(a) Casino Royale (b) Coronation Street (c) Cinderella

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All entrants must be 18 or over to be eligible. Closing date Friday, 18th May
The winning entry will be announced on the What's On pages of the GEM Thursday, 24th May



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The festival is supported by Welsh Government, Arts Council Wales & South Wales, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Brecknock Forest Group, Writ and Boreland Cymru, Brecknock Books and other sponsors and volunteers.

Bryn Hafren produces best female 'speaking' team in UK

BRYN HAFREN School was placed a commendable third in the national final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, held at Glyndwr University, Wrexham on Saturday, April 28.

The team from Barry, who were entering for their first time in the senior section (14-17-year-olds) were competing against teams across the UK, from Scotland to the south of England.

The winning team were from Oathall Community College in Sussex and the runners up were from Holsworthy Community



College in Devon.

"As these teams were all male, this effectively makes the Bryn Hafren team the best female team in the UK!" a spokeswoman said.

Representing Rotary RIBI Region 6, covering Wales and part of the midlands, the Bryn Hafren senior team, chaired by Aimee Delaney; their Speaker, Lissie Wallington and their Vote of Thanks given by Sarah Jayne Griffiths, gained well-deserved praise from the judges.

Taking an adaptation of the forthcoming 2012 Olympics as their chosen presentation topic: "Play

up, play away and play the fool: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality," the Bryn Hafren students showed extensive knowledge and understanding of their subject, adding humour and spontaneity.

Presenting the prizes, RIBI national president Ray Burman congratulated the Bryn Hafren

Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School senior team with RIBI president Ray Burman, Barry Rotary Club president and teacher Angela Burd; Sarah Jayne Griffiths (Vote of Thanks), Lissie Wallington (Speaker) and Aimee Delaney (chairperson).

team on their success, saying that this competition demanded all competitors to be articulate, knowledgeable and calm under pressure and that it had been a delight to listen to them at the RIBI Youth Speaks final.

President of Barry Rotary Club, Dave Ball, also paid tribute to the Bryn Hafren team and their teacher, Angela Burd, on an outstanding achievement.

Contact Barry Rotary Club membership chairman Peter Battle on 01446 710204 or visit www.ribi.org for further information about Rotary.



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SERVICE GAINING A FRIENDLY ADVANTAGE FOR THE OVER 50s

RIGHT:

Sandra Roberts, Friendly Advantage Manager, and partners with the Vale AM.

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, hosted the launch of a Vale Centre for Voluntary Services: (VCVS) project at the Senedd last week.

She congratulated the VCVS on its innovation, imagination and success in securing a Big Lottery Grant to open up opportunities for the over 50s in Cardiff and the Vale.

She said that several partners are on board with the Friendly Advantage project, to help deliver different aspects of 'be-friending'

for over 50s and their carers. She went on: "It was great to host this launch at the Senedd and to make the connections with my role as Equalities Minister.

"This is an exciting new project taking action to engage and empower over 50s in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

"It aims to open up opportunities for disabled people, carers and those who have not had access to the advantages of the digital world we live in.

"This is an important project with lessons to be learnt across Wales."



Rain stops just in time in the Vale!

THE heavy rain that hit the Vale, stopped just in time – as far as travellers were concerned.

The rain ceased on Tuesday afternoon; in the morning, the Vale Council had issued a warning, asking motorists to avoid travelling due to the large amount of water on the roads.

A particular problem was in Lavernock Road in Penarth, where the road was badly flooded, due to an overflow of the public surface water sewer.

A spokeswoman said: "The Vale

Council is working to keep the road open and Welsh Water has been asked to make the sewer a priority."

Roads through Pendoylan and other Vale villages were subject to flooding, and Dyffryn Gardens was closed on Tuesday but was expected to be open on Wednesday.

The Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line was flooded between Bridgend and Cardiff Airport for a time in the morning.

A spokesman for Arriva Trains reported: "Services were disrupted and we had to lay on buses. However, services were running again by 11am."



BLISS DANCERS held their fifth show in April 2012 at the Dinas Powys Parish Hall, raising £214 for Cancer Research UK and £224 for the RNLI.

The dance school managed to deliver an amazing performance with audience members commenting on their fantastic choreography and polished dance routines.

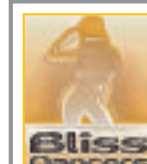
Bliss Dancers teach street, modern jazz and commercial dance within the Vale of Glamorgan for ages three to adult, providing a fun and relaxed place to learn and perform dance. The school has now announced that it will be opening two new classes in the

Trinity Church Hall, Barry, and at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Dance teacher Laura said: "I am extremely proud of my dancers, they have improved so much since we opened three years ago. I'm very excited to be opening two new classes to expand the school.

"I am from and live in the Vale, so I wanted to create my dance school within the Vale area too."

Bliss Dancers welcomes any new members. For more information, call Laura on 07545 696760, or visit: www.bliss-dancers.com



Bliss Dancers is a professional and affordable dance school.

We adopt a 'no attitude' class and ensure all students are happy in their environment.

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FRACKING INQUIRY

THE public inquiry into the controversial plan to drill in Llandow, to test for shale gas, will begin on May 22.

Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd has appealed against the Vale Council planning committee's decision to refuse permission to conduct exploratory drilling to determine the commercial potential for extracting natural gas.

The company has already completed similar test drilling in several sites in south Wales, and claims that drilling in the Vale is necessary

to complete the geological picture.

However, campaigners have raised the spectre of a 'fracking' operation, where sand, water and chemicals are pumped into fissures in the shale beds, several hundred metres below ground, and are opposing any drilling.

The public inquiry will take place in the Board Room, Docks Office, Barry, starting at 10am on May 22, and is expected to last two days.

College praised

DEPUTY Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert AM, has visited Cardiff and Vale College to congratulate it on winning a prestigious award for overcoming deprivation.

The minister presented college staff and partners with a certificate to mark the success of CAVC's Entry to Vocational Skills (EVS) course.

It was the only Welsh college to win one of the Association of Colleges' Beacon Awards.

Get your skates back on!

AT Bridgend Cycle Centre, we have been servicing the cycle community for the last 20 years.

We have recently expanded the shop and now sell Quad Skates to the Roller Derby and Recreational Skating community.

Our local skating groups, Cardiff Roller Collective (Bridgend), Rink

Ratz Recreational Skating and the Bridgend Roller Disco Revival meet and train on a weekly basis. They are always looking for new people to join in this new skating phenomenon in south Wales.

Contact us for further details if you would like to join any of these groups. Absolute beginners are welcome; call 01656 766006.

Serving Wales' farmers

RIVERLEA have always got their finger on the button! Check out our regularly updated website for the latest stock, product news, parts, service and finance offers, and much more.

You will find videos of working demonstrations linked through You Tube, a link to our Facebook page where you can become one of our loyal followers, and even click on to our Ebay shop where you can pick up a Riverlea bargain.

Keep your finger on the pulse and click Riverlea on the website www.riverlea.co.uk - Serving Wales' farmers!



In Business Update

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

FRIENDLY, TALENTED APPROACH TO TATTOOING

PINS N NEEDLES Tattoo Studio has been trading for seven months, and we have had a lot of support from the local community.

We have two artists in the studio, James Harrison and Jamie Rees, who are friendly, approachable and very talented.

At Pins N Needles,

we pride ourselves on our custom tattoo work offering great value for money; we do colour work, black and grey, and cover ups.

For more information or bookings, please call into the shop, call us on 01446 796158, or contact us on Facebook. (We are located above 11 Vesuvio restaurant)

Future's new orangery roof system

A bespoke orangery room adds a spacious light-filled living space to your home all year round.

It could be used for your kitchen, your home, office, a family sitting room or a room for all fresco dining.

They are becoming more and more popular with their contemporary look adding that finishing touch to your home. It is a 'room for all seasons'.

Future Window Solutions has a new roof system which now allows us to pass on our amazing deals to our customers offering them better quality roof systems at down to earth prices.

A spokesman said: "Please contact one of our friendly team free on 0800 032 0921 for a free demonstration."

"Most of our work comes via recommendation because of our quality workmanship."

"We are a family run company understanding the needs for a happy home and know how important quality and assurance matters to our customers."

Say (Riverford) cheese for proper farmhouse taste!

OUR new Riverford cheese shop is now open, and we hope you'll be as pleased as we are about it!

The aim is to bring you a range of proper farmhouse cheeses all in one place, so you can explore the amazing variety on offer. They are all from small-scale organic producers, and come with bags of character and flavour.

Creamy, crumbly, oozy, blue...

Whether you fancy something lemony and soft like our High Weald Dairy sheep's milk cheese, or sharp and velvety like our Caws Cenarth Caerffili, we've something for everyone.

We'll also be adding more cheeses to the range as we discover them, so keep an eye out for new additions.

Something on the side?

The goodies don't stop there either. We've buttery organic Pimhill oatcakes, moreish chutneys like hot pear and ginger or ploughman's pickle, and refreshing

organic grapes and apples so you can make the tastiest cheeseboard possible.

We hope you'll give it a try, and as ever, if you have any feedback,

please let us know.

Happy seasonal eating! Contact Chris and Alison Moruzzi on their local office number, 01639 772846.

SOUTH WALES BUSINESSMAN TACKLES EVEREST FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY

WAKING up in a small hut with no electricity to find that your only source of drinking water has frozen is not a situation that most of us would expect to be in come March.

Yet this is what faced south Wales businessman Tim Leeke after he agreed to become one of 12 hardy climbers who trekked up Everest to Base Camp to raise money for the NSPCC in Cardiff.

"It was at a family get together at Christmas that it was first mentioned," explained Tim in an interview with The GEM. "My cousin Emma was already in the second year of a

by Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

two-year fundraising project for the NSPCC and I was happy to help.

"I knew three people there – my cousins Emma and Chris, and my friend Andy who is a Llanblethian boy.

"We all met up before so I could get to know people and they were a great group to do it with."

With a hardy bunch of explorers at his side, including Cardiff Blues chairman Peter Thomas and Welsh Rugby Union supremo David Pickering, Tim began his ascent of the world's largest mountain.

"What hit me first was the altitude – the

lack of air, that is," he said. "It was really hard to get used to. You can't train for altitude until you're there. It affects everybody differently. I guess it's just kind of luck, how your body is made up.

"I was often breathless and I developed a cough too, due to swallowing dust. There was dust everywhere, especially when the yaks went past – they'd blow huge clouds up for you to walk through.

"I also had a bit of a dodgy stomach for a few days which was especially uncomfortable when walking. That caused me a bit of angst!"

Particularly at the beginning, Tim wasn't missing out on the fine weather we were experiencing in Wales.

Far from it, in fact; in the day at least.

"We were very lucky with the weather a lot of the way up. It was warm enough to wear shorts on the first few days.

"But it got very cold at night, and these 'tea houses' you stayed in



The group reach destination Base Camp.

weren't heated. It got so cold that some people's water carriers would freeze and they'd end up with big chunks of ice in their water the next day."

The terrain was also constantly changing, and you could never rest on your laurels or you risked getting caught out by what was around the corner.

"We began by trekking on paths," he explained. "They were only two or three feet wide, and then it would change.

"You would be clambering over boulders for a few hours. Then there

were some really narrow paths and then you would be trekking through forest. It kept you on your toes!"

They began to reach their destination after a few days' trekking, and Tim described his relief at finally seeing the end in sight.

"When we got towards Base Camp I just felt great relief and a real satisfaction for what I had achieved. I had got to the highest point I could have hoped to.

"All that's there is a stone marking that it was Base Camp, and further on there is a tent-

sider going higher."

The group then descended back to Kathmandu by helicopter, as most had commitments to return to in south Wales. But Tim said that he had spent enough time on the mountain to take home plenty of memories to his family.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience and I would recommend it to anybody. It was really, really tough but has given me many great memories! We took hundreds of photos of our trip."

He also had a few tips for any would-be Vale explorers looking to follow in his footsteps.

"I'd say take your walking boots, proper walking boots! Make sure they fit properly.

"If they give you grief you've had it! I think it's quite amazing that the entire time we were trekking none of us had blisters!"

"I'd also say little things like baby wipes and antibacterial hand gel. There's no running water the closer you get to Base Camp so it's always handy to have things like that with you."

But the main reason

Tim and his group were tackling Everest was to benefit others.

He finished by explaining where the money raised would be heading.

"It's always a pleasure to help disadvantaged children. A lot of the money goes towards the NSPCC's work in Cardiff – the 'Building Brighter Futures' program and their Diane Engelhardt House in the city. We also had a lunch and charity auction before we went."

He also added that he wasn't looking at continuing his burgeoning climbing career any time soon.

"I've got a wife and two young children at home, so I was lucky to be able to get the two weeks I had. I'm already indebted to my wife for that!"

If you would like to donate to Tim or any of his companions to aid their cause, you can find donation pages at: www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TimLeeke (Tim), <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/leekeseverest> (Emma and Chris) and <http://www.justgiving.com/JonesytoEverest> (Andy).

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Counting the days to the Eisteddfod...

ON Thursday, April 26, we celebrated 100 days to go before the start of the National Eisteddfod.

In just over three months time, the eyes of Wales will be on the area with 150,000 visitors flocking to one of the world's greatest festivals.

The 100 days to go mark is an important milestone in the project, and to celebrate, Eisteddfod staff went out and about in the Vale to talk about the festival and to distribute information.

This time we were joined by Fireman Sam, who proved a great hit in both Llantwit Major and Cogan, Penarth, when

he met local children.

First stop was the Cylch Meithrin at the Western Vale Integrated Children Centre, where Fireman Sam enjoyed a warm welcome, with some of the children dressed in Fireman Sam jumpers.

It was a chance to talk to parents about some of the special offers available for visitors to the

Eisteddfod, including the three days on the Maes on the price of two and the early bird discount ticket offer, while Sam was distributing Eisteddfod stickers.

Then it was off to Cogan Nursery School in Penarth, where the children have been working on a project about the Eisteddfod with their teacher Mr Thomas.

The work undertaken by the school on the history of the festival is fantastic, and with the school currently short-listed for a Wales-wide heritage award, we very much hope that the work will be on display at the welcome pavilion in the Eisteddfod, so all our visitors can enjoy the wonderful project.

Community involvement is an important part of the Eisteddfod project. Many local people are members of the Eisteddfod choir, which will perform at the UK premiere of Karl Jenkins' latest work, *Bards of Wales*, with Dennis O'Neill and Rebecca Evans on Saturday, August 4.

Having been rehearsing every week for many months, the concert on the Pavilion stage will be the pinnacle of this



community project.

Local children are also gearing up for 'Only Vale Kids Aloud', a choir of primary school age children from the Vale, who will perform in the opening concert with Only Men Aloud, and Only Boys Aloud – who are currently waiting to find out if they'll make it into the live shows on Britain's Got Talent.

If the boys, brought together for the opening concert at the 2010 Eisteddfod do make it into the finals, we'll be supporting them all the way, and looking forward to seeing them on stage on August 3.

For more information about the Eisteddfod, including tickets for all the concerts, go to www.eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the ticketline, 0845 4090 800.

Phrase of the week

For those of you following the phrase of the week, in conjunction with The GEM and Bro Radio, this week's phrase is a must for anyone thinking of voting in

this week's local elections – or wanting to show their support for Only Boys Aloud – *Rwy'n cefnogi...* (Roo-keen kev-nogg-ee...) which means 'I support...'

DDYDD Iau, Ebrill 26, roeddem yn dathlu 100 diwrnod i fynd cyn cychwyn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Ymhen ychydig dros dri mis, bydd llygaid Cymru gyfan ar y Fro, gyda 150,000 o ymwelwyr yn heidio i un o wyliau mawr y byd.

Mae 100 diwrnod i fynd yn garreg filltir bwysig yn y prosiect, ac i ddathlu, aeth staff yr Eisteddfod allan am y diwrnod o amgylch y Fro, i siarad am y Brifwyl ac i rannu gwybodaeth. Y tro 'ma, roedd gennym ni gwmni go arbennig – Sam Tân – a gafodd groeso mawr yn Llanilltud Fawr ac yn Cogan, Penarth, pan fu'n cyfarfod plant lleol.

Cawsom fynd i Gylch Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr i gychwyn, lle cafodd Sam dilyn o groeso – gyda rhai plant yn gwisgo siwmpwr Sam Tân yn arbennig i'w

groesawu. Cyfle i gael sgwrs gyda'r rhieni a sôn am rai o'r cynigion arbennig ar gyfer ymwelwyr i'r Eisteddfod, gan gynnwys tridiau ar y Maes and bris deuddydd a'r prisiau gostyngol ar docynnau sy'n cael eu prynu ymlaen llaw, tra roedd Sam wrthi'n brysuro yn dosbarthu sticeri.

Yna, ymlaen i Ysgol Feithrin Cogan ym Mhenarth, lle mae'r plant wedi bod yn gweithio ar brosiect am yr Eisteddfod gyda'u hathro Mr Thomas. Mae'r gwaith ar hanes yr Eisteddfod yn wych, ac mae'r ysgol ar y rhestr fer am wobwr drefnadaeth dros Gymru ar hyn o bryd. A rydym yn falch o ddweud y bydd cyfle i bawb fwynhau'r gwaith hwn gan ein bod yn gobeithio'i arddangos yn y Ganolfan Groeso yn ystod yr wythnos, fel bod ein hymwelwyr i gyd yn cael cyfle i'w fwynhau.

Mae cynnwys y gymuned yn ein gwaith yn rhan hollbwysig o'r prosiect. Mae llawer o bobl leol yn aelodau o Gôr yr Eisteddfod, a fydd yn perfformio premier Prydeinig gwaith diweddaraf Karl Jenkins, Beirdd Cymru, gyda Dennis O'Neill a

Rebecca Evans nos Sadwrn, Awst 4. Wedi ymarfer am fisodd lawer y cyngerdd ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn fydd pinnac y prosiect hwn.

Mae plant lleol hefyd yn edrych ymlaen i fod yn rhan o 'Only Vale Kids Aloud', côr o blant oed cynradd o Fro Morgannwg, a fydd yn perfformio yn y cyngerdd agoriadol gydag Only Men Aloud, ac Only Boys Aloud – sy'n disgwyl i gael gwybod os y byddan nhw'n ymdangos ar sioeau byw y rhaglen Britain's Got Talent ar hyn o bryd. Os y bydd y bechgyn, a ddaeth ynghyd drwy brosiect arbennig ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod 2010, yn cyrraedd y rownd derfynol, fe fyddan ni'n eu cefnogi nhw tan y diwedd, ac yn edrych ymlaen i'w gweld nhw ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod nos Wener, Awst 3.

Am ragor o wybodaeth am yr Eisteddfod, gan gynnwys tocynnau i'r cyngerddau, ewch i www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu ffoniwch y linell docynnau, 0845 4090 800.

SIONED EDWARDS

VALE RAMBLERS TRY OUT BIRD SPOTTING

A TOTAL of 13 members of the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers enjoyed a walk from the RSPB Centre at Nash on the Newport Wetlands, led by David Field.

Determined to do some bird spotting we began with a robin! There was great excitement as a fox was sighted hurrying through a field. A very fine specimen.

The walk continued along a level and well-maintained path to the foreshore before turning west. Vigorous debate ensued when two herons were seen and some members were sure the second one was not real. The bird in question settled the argument, how-

ever, when it flapped away. Conditions were perfect for walking; relatively mild and with no wind while the overnight freeze had turned the ground into a pleasantly firm terrain for most of the way. Lapwings, curlews, buzzards, a kestrel and oystercatchers were soon added to the list of birds spotted as the group continued to Goldcliff Church where, to their surprise, four members of an Italian family are interred.

It must be a healthy area, as many of the stones recorded those of an advanced age!

The group then stopped at a hide near the pond and among the mallards were coots,

tufted and gadwall ducks. All the days sightings were added to the RSPB Centre list when the group stopped for refreshment there.

This walk is highly recommended, as high level walking at this time of year can be a bit dubious. The RSPB Centre is excellent and well worth a visit. Following the walk, the group retired to a nearby pub for refreshment.

New members are always welcome. We're a friendly crew and meet each Sunday for walks in the local area and beyond.

If you would like to join, see the website for details www.valeofglam.org/ramblers.com

MC

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Scott Wroe Hearing Centre is an Independent hearing aid practice that has been established in Penarth for over 8 years.

The Centre has access to the very best hearing aids on the market and due to the standards and dedication of the practice it has received recognition by becoming a 5 Star Phonak Approved Centre and the first hearing practice in the UK to become a Widex Approved Centre.

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BUNGALOWS



GLYNBRIDGE CLOSE, BARRY
 off Port Road
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£159,950



SPIRES WALK, BARRY
 Spacious detached bungalow, maintenance free, 23ft living room, 3 bedrooms (master ensuite), modern family bathroom, double garage/driveway, enclosed private rear garden. Immaculate presentation. Viewing highly recommended.
£199,950



PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
 Ideal for someone working from home. Versatile living. Extended detached dorma bungalow. Living room, kitchen/breakfast. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms also separate annexe to rear comprising bedroom, shower room, kitchen/sitting area.
£285,000



ECKLEY ROAD, SULLY
 Detached bungalow, spacious living room, 2 bedrooms, low maintenance rear garden. 2 conservatories, integral garage, no chain. In need of modernisation.
£209,950



ST JOHNS PLACE, RHOOSE
 2/3 bedrooms, detached bungalow. Living room, bedroom with ensuite shower, conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage. Well presented throughout.
£224,950



HEOL Y GAER, THE KNAP
 Dorma bungalow. Show home presented. Sea views from first floor. Ground floor: 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, 2011 fitted kitchen, family bathroom. To the first floor: Master bedroom and bathroom, detached garage/driveway.
£329,950



PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
 Stunning views over Vale. Dorma detached bungalow. To the ground floor: Living, dining room, bathroom and bedroom. To the first floor: 2 bedrooms, ensuite and dressing room. Garage/parking.
£329,950



THE NURSERIES, RHOOSE
 Detached bungalow with private access. Indoor heated pool. 3 bedrooms, formerly 4, ensuite and utility, kitchen/dining area. Low maintenance gardens. Detached double garage. No chain.
£369,995



SOUTHBOURNE COURT, PLYMOUTH ROAD, BARRY
 Approx 20 years old. Modern semi-detached dorma bungalow, fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, 2 double bedrooms, uPVC double glazed, gas central heating. Double driveway. Low maintenance garden.
£119,950



PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
 Extended traditional semi detached, bay fronted bungalow, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, sun lounge, level enclosed garden. Driveway to front.
£209,950



COMMERCIAL ROAD, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, mid terraced, lounge/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, paved rear garden. No chain.
£79,950



MORGAN STREET, BARRY
 Two bedroom, mid terraced property. Lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, paved rear garden. No chain.
£87,500



MOREL STREET, BARRY
 Mid terrace traditional. Well presented. Two reception rooms, extended kitchen, uPVC Double glazing, gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden, lane access, town centre location.
£97,995



GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
 Modern mid terraced. Living room. Modern fitted kitchen. Two double bedrooms. Family bathroom. Driveway to front. Enclosed rear decked garden. uPVC DG & Gas CH n/a combi.
£99,950



RICHARD STREET, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, mid terrace traditional. Through living room, enclosed low maintenance garden. Offered with no chain. uPVC DG. Gas CH. Amidst shops, schools.
£104,950



WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
 Three bedrooms. Mid terrace. Offered with no chain. Through living/dining room, First floor bathroom. Enclosed garden. Lane access.
£109,000



GEORGE STREET, BARRY
 Bay fronted, mid terraced, through living room, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom. Three bedrooms. No chain.
£114,950



EVANS STREET, BARRY
 Traditional mid terraced, well presented, through living/dining room, ground floor bathroom, three double bedrooms, level enclosed garden. Ideal first time buy.
£114,950



HOLTON ROAD, BARRY
 Two storey, end of terrace traditional. Ideal investment. Split into 2 flats with separate utilities and fire regs. Having an income of approx £11,800 per annum. Ground floor: Living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom. 1st floor: living room, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom to 2nd floor. Further room.
£114,950



WENVOE TERRACE, BARRY
 Three double bedrooms. Constructed in 1891. End of terrace. Views over Bristol Channel. living/dining room, downstairs bathroom. Walking distance to shops and train.
£124,950



CLIVE ROAD, BARRY
 End of terrace traditional. Gas central heating, living room, 3 bedrooms, loft room with velux suitable for hobbies. 2011 replacement bathroom. Ground floor sea views across waterfront. Garage to rear.
£125,995



CARN Y EBOL, BARRY
 Well presented. Modern 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast. Enclosed private garden. 2 designated parking places. Cul de sac position.
£132,950



VERE STREET, BARRY
 Ground floor apartment. Two bedrooms, amidst shops. Walking distance to train. Living room, fitted kitchen, level rear garden with lane access. Ideal first time buyer.
£64,950



HOWARD COURT, BARRY
 Two bedroomed first floor apartment in need of modernisation. Living room, gas central heating and uPVC double glazing.
£89,950



PYRA COURT, BARRY
 First floor apartment. Communal door entry system, newly fitted kitchen, living room with balcony, two bedrooms, shower room, uPVC double glazing, enclosed balcony. Parking in block.
£87,950



GLADSTONE COURT, BARRY
 Maintenance free living. First floor apartment. Living room with Juliette balcony. Two bedrooms, uPVC DG, gas CH via combi. Family bathroom, refurbished throughout. Modern fitted kitchen.
£109,950



SEALAWNS, BARRY
 Ground floor apartment. Ideal for the less mobile. Living room with views towards the Knap. Two bedrooms, fitted kitchen and shower room, parking. Garage. No chain.
£144,950



COTSWOLD RISE, BARRY
 Well presented throughout. 3 double bedrooms, corner position, end of link. Living room, conservatory, integral garage/driveway. Double glazed, gas central heating via combi. Spacious contemporary living. Ideal family home. No Chain.
£139,950



MARQUIS CLOSE, BARRY
 End of link. Modern dwelling. Dining and living room. Fitted kitchen. 2010 replacement bathroom. Sea views from rear. Parking to front and rear. Viewing highly recommended.
£134,950



LONGMEADOW DRIVE, BARRY
 Extended semi detached. Three bedrooms, separate dwelling to side comprising: Living room, double bedroom, kitchen, cloakroom, double garage approx 35ft.
£149,950



CLAUDE ROAD, BARRY
 End of link modern. Three bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, driveway/garage. Enclosed rear garden. No chain/vacant possession.
£129,950



THE GROVE, BARRY
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£234,950



MELYN Y GORS, BARRY
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£149,950



EITHINEN BER, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, semi detached, cul de sac position. wc cloakroom, living room, enclosed garden. Driveway/parking.
£159,950



SOUTH VIEW, RHOOSE
 Luxury new build. Constructed February 2012. 4 bedrooms, 2 ensuite. Family bathroom, 3 reception rooms, gallery landing, sweeping driveway. Garage providing ample parking. Enclosed rear garden.
£445,000



BRONY MOR, BARRY
 Imposing detached. Built in 1950's. Bay fronted. 4 bedrooms, lake gardens, the Knap and sea views, living room, dining room, oak block flooring, kitchen with integrated appliances. Conservatory, utility room, integral garage/driveway. Enclosed well established garden.
£409,950



LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY
 Modern detached, 5 bedrooms, spacious family home, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/diner, integrated appliances, offered with no chain. Driveway/garage. Views overlooking the Vale.
£314,950



TAF CLOSE, BARRY
 Three bedroomed, modern detached. Living room with French doors, WC cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast, front, side and rear gardens. Garage/driveway. No chain.
£194,950



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'Let us entertain you' – comprehensive school's dance pupils delight their audiences

BRYN HAFREN Comprehensive School's dance department recently presented two programmes - with the first on March 26 and the second on April 3.

The first of the performances featured senior students reprising their exam programmes, and the second involved younger pupils.

Both groups entertained their audiences who appreciated the efforts of both the pupils and the hardworking staff.

Many members of the audience praised the high standards achieved.

PHOTOGRAPHS
by
IAN DIXON



First Minister backs the 'Cake Break' campaign



The First Minister is backing the Cake Break campaign.

THE First Minister of Wales, Idris Jones AM, is lending his support to MS Society Cymru to help promote Cake Break on May 4.

Cake Break, sponsored by Wright's Baking, is a deliciously easy way for everyone to fundraise for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, while enjoying lots of cake, guilt-free. Cake Break is taking place in MS Week (April 30-May 6), which aims to raise awareness of the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults.

Judi Rhys, Director of MS Society Cymru, commented: "Cake Break is such an easy way to help raise money for a worthwhile cause, there's no excuse not to take part – who doesn't love cake?"

If you would like to sign up, please contact MS Society Cymru on 029 2078 6676.



Under-13s close in cup final



ABOVE: Cowbridge Town AFC under-13A lost to Sully under-13A in a tremendous cup final on April 27 at Jenner Park, Barry, losing 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw after extra time. Both teams were fantastic and congratulations to Sully. The Cowbridge boys would like to thank everyone for all their support on the night.

Mixed days for the Bees

BARRY Bees under-9s travelled to Llanishen to play three touring Welsh teams.

The first match against a very strong and physical London Welsh team saw the Bees get off to a blistering start, with Cian Anderson putting in a huge tackle on the biggest of the London Welsh players.

From the resulting turnover, the Bees stormed onto the attack through Isaac McBride, before Cian finished in the corner. The London team were clearly taken aback at the ferocity of

the Barry play and Seb Fahiya smashed his way through the middle of the London defence to make it 2-0.

London Welsh began to come to terms with the pace of the game and were able to use their power to make the score 2-1 at the break.

The Bees upped the tempo again in the second half and Cian scored a fantastic solo try from deep inside his own half.

Again the tourists responded well and forced their way over to make it 3-2, but another great try from Cian made the final score 4-2 after an excellent all-round team performance, leaving

the illustrious tourists in no doubt about the quality of Welsh rugby.

The Bees were even stronger in the second match, and played some great free-flowing rugby despite the conditions.

The tries were coming thick and fast, with Cian and Ethan Watkins scoring good tries, and hard-running Cole Saunders and Harrison Kelly making inroads into the London defence.

London Welsh again responded well and pulled a try back. This was followed by an excellent individual try from James Chapman after he pounced on a loose ball.

Charlie Bale and Morgan Taylor showed some of their best form of the season, with ball in hand and in defence. The game was finished with a flourish with a try from Jake Lang, who forced his way through the defence, and two excellent tries from Jacob Pereira. In the dying seconds London Welsh scored a break-away try to make it 6-2.

In the final match the rain had increased in intensity, making it very difficult to play any constructive rugby. London Welsh were determined not to let Barry get away with the white wash, and used their physical advantages to the full.

The London team scored the first try with a well-worked move, and the Bees were now playing

catch up. After an extended period of pressure, with Rhys Lloyd nearly forcing his way over, flying winger Spencer Williams scored a great try in the corner.

Barry continued to press with strong tackling from scrum half dynamo Stephen Williams and elusive winger Taylor Ross-Zeal.

Again the Bees were camped on the London Welsh line, but a spilt ball was picked up by a London player who was able to run the length of the pitch to score, despite an excellent chase from Seb.

At 2-1 down the pressure was on the Bees, but in ever deteriorating conditions Barry were struggling to move the ball; and the game became a physical contest which better suited the London team, who managed to hold onto their 2-1 lead.

Overall it was a great day of rugby despite the atrocious weather. The Bees now have one more test when they travel to Abergavenny for the final tournament of the season.

Squad: Rhys Lloyd, Jacob Pereira, Isaac McBride, Ethan Watkins, Charlie Bale, Morgan Taylor, Cole Saunders, Spencer Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Cian Anderson, Stephen Williams, Taylor Ross-Zeal, James Chapman, Jake Lang.

JM

Barrivale results

Latest results from Barrivale:

Tuesday, April 17: First – Irene Thomas and Jane Brook, 60.94 per cent; Second – Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas, 59.9 per cent; Third – Denis Mottram and Graham Jones, 57.29 per cent.

Celia and Huw won on handicap. The AGM was held on Tuesday April 24 when the retiring committee was, once again, re-elected. The Bill Shore Trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Hilary Laurence.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 25th birthday with a buffet, birthday cake and a teams event, results as follows:

First – Helen Jordan, Maureen Charlton, Jane Brook and Denis Mottram, 31 IMPS; Second – Mike Best, Mick Green, Carol James and Eileen Hughes, 29 IMPS.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Motoring with Tim Saunders

LIFE ON THE OPEN ROAD – IN THE LIFESTYLE 624

WHAT do the radio DJ Johnnie Walker and the comedian Marcus Brigstocke have in common? They are both motorhome fanatics.

While Mr Walker has toured Europe in his Auto-Trail Cheyenne 630 LB, Mr Brigstocke enjoys family holidays to France in his. He told the Daily Mail: "My daughter's fondest memory wasn't our visit to Disneyland Paris, but 'waking up in the can', as she put it."

The unique selling point of a motorhome is that you can set up home where ever you wish without the hassle of pitching a tent or looking for a decent hotel.

It's called wild camping – and as long as there's enough gas and water it's a comfortable experience. We visited the Isle of Wight where it was possible to find free parking in a plethora of lay-bys.

A 45-minute crossing



The Lifestyle 624 motorhome.

from Portsmouth to Fishbourne with Wightlink was just enough to make us feel like we had travelled abroad and the right amount of time for Harriett, who enjoyed being on deck and watching the waves tossing against the side.

Our home for the week was the Lifestyle 624, manufactured by Marquis Motorhomes in conjunction with Swift.

The five-berth vehicle uses a Fiat Ducato cab and a capable and efficient Fiat Multijet diesel 130bhp engine, coupled to a six-speed gearbox. It easily returned around 600 miles on a tank.

This sub-£40,000 model was loaded with

equipment, making it feel a very good value proposition. The cabin was equipped with air conditioning and electric windows, together with a good quality stereo. Comfortable and luxurious chenille fabrics made for a particularly cosy homely environment.

Typically we made sure that we were out and about before 11 o'clock, having prepared our packed lunches in the kitchen with its ample surface space. While I made sandwiches, baby daughter Harriett thoroughly enjoyed rearranging the floor standing cupboards and generally creating mayhem.

One day we returned from a bracing walk to Ventnor and really fancied a hot chocolate. No problem, we just fired up the Thetford cooker and boiled some milk, really quickly (watch the video at www.travelwriter.biz).

Our longest stay was at Ventnor (two days), which we fell in love with because of its proximity to the beach and some stunning walking routes. We parked at the roadside directly outside the park and bowling green.

When the motorhome ran out of water it was easy to fill up the water-casing in the public conveniences at the park. And when the cassette toilet needed emptying where else could be better to do this when not on a campsite? The Lifestyle's cassette toilet was fitted with wheels and an extending handle, making it so much easier to transport. However, I did get some odd looks on walking through the park with it, although I hoped that passers-by might

think it luggage...

Come night we tried to keep to a strict routine so that little Harriett could stick to her usual sleeping pattern but this is always difficult on holiday.

Anyway, we usually rustled up something to eat at around 5.30pm each day. No culinary delights here, instead tinned ravioli and spaghetti stretching to a fry up on one occasion.

Living in a motorhome makes you much more aware of your fuel and water consumption, if for no other reason than you know it is not endless – there was a 65-litre fresh water tank.

Consequently, washing up was done under the trickle of cold water to ensure that there was enough Calor Gas for heating and hot showers.

The Lifestyle's shower room was well set out, particularly when comparing it to the Nuevo II, for instance, which I tested last year.

There seemed much more room in the Lifestyle, where passengers could walk throughout, even into the cabin, which was a helpful feature when Harriett, sitting in her car seat at the rear, wanted food or her teddy. She slept in the double bunk above the driver's cabin but insisted on waking up at 3 or 4am for a feed, something she had stopped doing at home. We put this down to a change in surroundings.

Our less comfortable bed was created by manoeuvring the seats in the centre of the vehicle. It was useful that the dining table formed part of the base of the bed, meaning that it didn't have to be stored in a cupboard as in the Nuevo II. Bed making was done quite quickly.

A motorhome really is a marvellous way of travelling with a young family.

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Richie and Peter take darts doubles title

THE Barry Darts League doubles tournament had a brilliant turn out.

In the last 16: T Stephens and S Oliver bt A Shields and R Gratton; Divi and J Kerr bt C Harris and M Stranger; M Petty and J Lambert bt N Williams and D Walters; A Baker and R Miles bt R Dyer and M Copeland; S Nettleship and M Cooke bt A Williams and B Kilgour; M Bennett and R Mathews bt P Mathews and P Dibble; R Way and J Hurn bt S Moggridge and M Andrews; P Snook and R Williams bt C James and T Overton.

In the quarter-final:

Tony and Stuart bt Divi and James; Ashley and Ron bt Mark and John, Simon and Mark bt Mike and Ray; Peter and Richie bt Ray and Jon.

In the semi-final: Tony and Stuart from the Station Hotel (Penarth) beat Ashley and Ron from The Runaways (Rhoose). Richie and Peter from the Drifters beat Simon and Mark from Dartonians.

The final winners of the league doubles 2012 were Richie and Peter who came out on top 4-1!

This Friday is the Premier Cup semi-finals: Westend v Three Bells; Station Hotel v Plastic C.

NW

Westend looking for youth players

WESTEND Ladies Netball Club will be starting a youth team within the coming weeks and are looking for young, keen netball players who would like to join.

This will be a new team and all girls aged 12 and over are wel-

come, from beginners to the more experienced.

We have qualified coaches who are CRB checked, and we also have four qualified first aiders.

Training night is a Monday at Bro Morgannwg Barn from 7-9pm.

For more information call Leigh-Anne Jones on 07727 180512.

Bluebirds' racing syndicate can now celebrate a big win

NINE Cardiff City football supporters, headed by former Cardiff City player Scott Young, who formed a horse racing syndicate called Bluebirds Racing, had plenty to celebrate when their horse, Captain Sharpe, a four-year-old chestnut gelding, won at odds of 10-1 at Cheltenham last week.

One member of the syndicate Tim Jones, a former leading amateur rider who was the first jockey to win a race on the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Norton's Coin, told me: "We are just a bunch of regular Cardiff City supporters and the syndicate is headed by former City star Scott Young, who will be remembered for knocking

Leeds out of the FA Cup."

One of the syndicate's members is a dentist and another is a bin-man, but all have one thing in common – they are Cardiff City supporters.

Captain Sharpe, a handicap hurdler, is trained at Bargoed by Bernard Llewellyn and was ridden by his stable jockey and grandson Robbie Williams, who won last season's amateur riders' flat championship, and is one of Wales' most promising young jockeys. He was selected earlier this year to race in the USA, and has hopes of winning this year's amateur riders' jump jockeys championship.

Robbie's mother Beth is a former successful amateur rider, as is his uncle John Llewellyn, who is assistant trainer to his father Bernard Llewellyn, well known in horse racing circles.

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God bless you all.

PATRICIA MALIA (1935 - 2012)

We, Pat's long standing partner, Dennis and her children, Richard and Helen, thank most sincerely her many friends for their kind tokens of support, not only since her passing but during her long illness. She will be fondly remembered for her kind, gentle and cheerful disposition and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Birthdays

Happy 12th Birthday JOE BAKER
on 5th May, 2012

Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Abigail and all the family. x x x

To a very special Daughter and Sister

HANNAH
on your 13th Birthday

Love Mum, Dad (Steve), Andrew, Emily and Faye
x x x

Happy 16th Birthday Hannah Louise
on 7th May

With all our love
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His love affair with all things motoring came to premature end because of his reckless driving; but for those of us who want to get out and about in the car for

days out, short breaks or holidays in the next few months, being properly prepared can save a lot of frustration.

The last thing anyone wants is to embark on a long journey, only to break down and be delayed for hours at the roadside.

It is essential that you are properly MoT-ed. In January 2012, the MoT test

changed to include new pieces of equipment such as warning lights and airbags.

You should make sure you have passed the MoT well in advance of an important journey, because if you fail a couple of days before you are due to go away, time can be short for a garage to order that essential part.

The motorcycle MoT is slightly differ-

ent to the one for cars and vans, but still has to be passed once a year.

An AA spokesman advised: "People need to make sure they have the right tyres on their vehicle; that they are in good condition and correctly inflated. These requirements are vital for braking and cornering safety."

"It is good to pick a quiet time to take

your car along for an MoT, service or check.

"Garages can be busy places, particularly first thing in the morning as vehicles are dropped off on the way to work and in the evening as they're collected on the way home.

"If you need to discuss anything with the garage try to pick a quieter time - late morning or early afternoon perhaps.

"Be specific about what you want done and get an estimate.

"If it's a 'service' you want then tell the

garage the car's age and mileage so they can match it to the manufacturer's schedule.

"You need to ask for an estimate too. Particular items like brake fluid, the timing belt or antifreeze may need changing depending on the mileage so costs can vary quite a lot.

"On the other hand, if it's a 'standard' or 'menu' service you're booking then you should check yourself if any additional items are needed or ask the garage's advice."

When driving abroad, the following check list includes items you will need: GB sticker; headlamp beam converters; a warning triangle; a high visibility jacket; a first aid kit; and a fire extinguisher.

Toad of Toad Hall's motoring career came to a sorry end.

However, if you follow the AA's simple advice you will have many years of happy driving on the open road!

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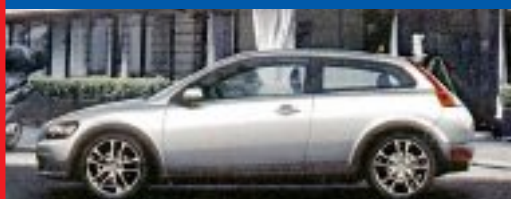
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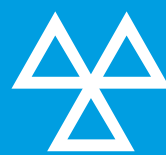
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GEM sport

Point earned by Dinas as season approaches the end

The high-flying hosts started the game well and the Dinas rearguard had to be on their mettle as an early free kick by Dean Palmer was headed just wide at the far post.

Dinas got into the game and when an initial attack was half cleared, Richard Yarr hit a powerful shot just wide.

Monmouth then forced a corner off Mike Lewis but it sliced behind the Dinas goal.

Damien Lack then showed what a fine keeper he is, making two great saves in the space of a couple of minutes. The first came when a strong run by Elliott Ford got him well into the Dinas penalty area

but Lack dived on the ball bravely. This was followed by a tremendous drive from 25 yards by Dean Palmer, which Lack tipped over the bar at full stretch.

Dinas weathered the storm and came more and more into the game and eventually broke the deadlock on 35 minutes when a superb pin-point free-kick wide on the right by Adam Raymond found Steffan Davies, who headed home powerfully, giving Tom Pass no chance.

Dinas looked as if they must increase their lead when a great run down the left by Liam Jeremy ended with a low cross to Gareth Tedstone, but the ball just evaded his outstretched boot from five yards.

The second half start-

MONMOUTH TOWN 1 DINAS POWYS 1

ed with Monmouth in the ascendancy, with the prolific Dan McDonald, making space for a snap shot, but Lack was equal to it.

When a 30 yard free kick found Elliott Ford, he hit a great shot just inside the post but Lack dived full stretch to palm it away.

Dinas were then dealt a blow when captain and centre-half Dave Penikett had to be replaced after a hamstring pull, Adrian Harvie entering the fray.

However, the pressure eventually told and a through ball from midfield found McDonald, who beat his man and rifled the ball into the net to equalise.

The visitors, as in the first half, began to get the upper hand again, with Jeremy causing the Monmouth defence all sorts of problems resulting in him being fouled on numerous occasions.

The Dinas supporters thought their side must take the lead again when Gareth Tedstone was played in one on one with the keeper, but Pass smothered his shot and the chance was gone.

The visitors then replaced Robbie Fowler with Matt Trotman with 15 minutes remaining and, although they pressed hard for the win-

ner it wouldn't come, the best chance in the last couple of minutes falling to Jeremy when a corner from the right found him in space at the far post but his shot from eight yards just skimmed the wrong side of the upright and the points were shared.

Dinas: Damien Lack, Steve Provis, Kieron Harman, Mike Lewis, Dave Penikett (captain), Adam Raymond, Robbie Fowler, Richard Yarr, Steffan Davies, Gareth Tedstone, Liam Jeremy, Chris Lewis, Adrian Harvie, Jordan Phillips, Matt Trotman, Mark Dunford.

PK

Barry Huskies end season with mixed emotions



The Welsh under-16 squad, including the four Huskies.

THE Barry Huskies Basketball Club's first and second teams finished their season with mixed results.

The first team lost twice (78-96 and 63-93) to league winners Cardiff Warriors, a team that has gone undefeated for the past two seasons. However, they had a big win against South Wales Police (85-53).

Their final game was at Swansea Storm, where they narrowly lost 64-69, a game which went down to the last minute.

Over the course of the four games, Lloyd Roberts, Ian Gibbons and Elliott Thomas scored the majority of the teams' points but solid team defence provided the platform for this to happen.

The Huskies finished the season with four wins and eight, defeats, but of those defeats only four of them were by double digits.

Coach Trigg said: "We played the first half of the season with a number of key players missing, who when they returned, helped us win four out of six games."

"I was also pleased with the younger players, who really improved as the season went on."

"The only thing that lets this side down is the lack of height. If we could get one or two 6'5" players, we'll be very competitive next season."

Meanwhile, the second team ended their season with a 53-81 loss to Swansea University and a 78-55 win at Newbridge Raiders.

Dave Pitman, Rhys Swinfen and Jack Dyer provided the team with the majority of their points and they finished mid table in the third division in their first year together.

Coach Cooper said: "I'm pleased overall with how this year has

gone. We struggled at times to get our strongest team out, but the players have gelled in their first year together. We have some great talent in the team and they'll come back stronger next season."

The season ended on a high note when Chloe McBratney, Kelsey Penikett, Tizzie Birch-Hurst and Carys Allen represented the club on their Welsh under-16 debut.

All four played pivotal roles, with Carys top scorer in both matches and earned the most valuable player award. The girls have excelled with the club's junior setup as they have gone from complete beginners to international players in less than 12 months.

The club is still recruiting at all age levels from under-12 to senior. For further details contact Alun Rees on 02920 531531, go to www.barryhuskies.net or visit Facebook page Barry Huskies Basketball Club.

Barry boxer Lee's next title defence

LEE SELBY, Barry's British and Commonwealth champion, will be defending his title for the second time after a impressive first defence against John Simpson, which resulted in a third knock out in a row for Lee.

He now fights with a record of 12-1-0 (4).

Lee has just returned from Las Vegas where he has been training with the 'Money Team' in Floyd Mayweather's gym.

It was an opportunity to prepare for his next title defence on Friday, May 25, in Newport.

A coach is leaving the Windsor at 6pm on the night, and tickets are available from behind the bar.

For more information, contact Mat on 07872 109 158.



ABOVE: Lee Selby, whose next title defence takes place in Newport on May 25.

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barry-today.co.uk

Sully Centurions start new season in fine style

SULLY Centurions 1st XI kicked off the new campaign with a winning draw at Ynysygerwn.

In spite of the terrible weather, which washed out all but two of the Swalec Premier League matches, the game went ahead as a reduced over contest.

Having being asked to bat, Centurions lost new boy Terry Fray for just one, with the score on 12. However, this brought Adam Shantry and Ryan Sylvester together and they proceeded to make hay, putting on 135 for the second wicket.

Ryan was finally out for a marvellous 93, which included four sixes and nine fours. Adam soon followed, bowled for 43, with the score on 150.

Daniel Rowe (26 not out) and skipper Lloyd Smith (34) enjoyed an entertaining half century fourth wicket stand and the innings closed on a formidable 212 for 4 after the allotted 30 overs.

After tea, with the weather getting colder and gloomier, the accurate spin of Jamie Sylvester and Tom Evison frustrated the home batsmen and the wickets began to tumble as the required run rate

started to creep up to double figures.

Tom returned figures of 3 for 21 and Jamie posted 1 for 15 to virtually kill the game off at the halfway stage.

Adam Shantry chipped in with two wickets for just four runs and Richard Ready, returning to Sully after a season away, picked up 1 for 7.

However, in spite of skipper Lloyd Smith switching things around and using a total of nine bowlers in an attempt to get the last three wickets, Ynysygerwn held on for the draw, with Grant (25) and Maggs (31 not out) being the pick of the home side's batsmen.

Nevertheless, with 21 points in the bag, this was a great start to the season for Centurions. Finally, a big pat on the back to the Ynysygerwn groundsman and helpers for getting the game on in the first place - Ynysygerwn 100 for 7 Sully 212 for 6.

The Second XI match on Saturday, and the ECB Kingfisher Beer Cup match against Frocester on Sunday were both washed out. Centurions will attempt to play the cup match this Sunday (May 6) at Burnham Avenue.

All four senior teams will be in action this weekend, with the 1st XI at home to Ammanford and the Second XI away to Ammanford seconds. The Third XI travel to Panteg Thirds and the fourths entertain Panteg fourth XI at Rhoose.

MF

Under-14s end season on a high

BARRY RFC under-14s ended the season with a clinical victory against Glamorgan Wanderers, bringing their tally to 24 victories in 32 matches this year.

The home team started strongly and were soon entrenched in the Wanderers' 22.

Dominant forward play, characterised by an intelligent pick-and-drive strategy, gave No 8, Scott Griffith, the opportunity to cross for the first of his three tries in the game and put Barry on the road to another win.

Captain Cameron Gibbon's attempt at goal was thwarted, but from the kick off Barry were unrelenting and the forwards ran in a further try from Scott, and a try a piece for props Davin Stanton and Dave Smith.

No to be outdone, the backs got their names on the score sheet with some well-executed moves that left the Wanderers reeling.

A brace for Gibbon (which he converted) and a try for winger Lloyd James left the visitors with a mountain to climb.

Having kept a clean sheet for 13 of their previous victories, a lapse in concentration by the Barry defence and some skilful play from the Wanderers half-back pairing gave them the opportunity to score under the posts for a half time score of 39-7.

The second half saw Barry score one of their finest tries of the whole season. The forwards put the Wanderers under immense pressure, resulting in a turn-over that the home-side exploited to

the full. The ball floated between the players who showed off their handling skills with some great off-loading, with no fewer than nine players getting hand to ball before full-back Josh Kemp's try.

Gibbon's conversion was good and with two more tries in quick succession, the referee soon blew up when Barry passed the 50 point mark.

After a quick shower, the squad headed to the Colcot Arms for their end of season meal, washed down with some well earned (soft) drinks.

Final score: Barry 56, Glamorgan Wanderers 7.

The under-14s have had a successful season, reaching the quarter finals of the Blues Cup for the second year running and notching up some memorable victories over some of the stronger teams in the region. Blues Vale District duties will continue for a number of players as the season draws to a close and then they have a well-earned rest before pre-season training in July.

The coaching team would like to acknowledge the commitment given by the whole squad and also thank all parents and sponsors - LDS Motor Factors and Realty DHG Limited - for their continued support and now look forward to the end of season presentation at the club on Friday, June 8.

Well done the Bombers!

Anyone interested in joining Barry RFC under-15s next season should contact Ioan Evans on 07764 256428.

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